

Hafa Adai!

Van Gils leaving Kagman High. **PAGE 2**
Former contractor files \$21M suit against IPI. **PAGE 5**

75¢

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COASTAL CLEANUP

A volunteer picks up trash at Pau Pau Beach as part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday. Saipan volunteers spent the morning of Sept. 21 cleaning up the island's coasts of debris, trash, and micro-plastics.

IVA MAURIN

More photos
on Page 14



Loss of key workers feared

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An internal survey that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce did among its members showed that

nearly 90% of employees that businesses fear may be forced to temporarily exit the CNMI due to CW petition troubles are "key employees."

See LOSS on Page 4

'Medicaid used up \$31M in over 3 months'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In just over three months, the CNMI Medicaid Office already used up its \$31 million

additional supplemental federal appropriations, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

In a letter to Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)—chairman

and ranking member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance respectively—Torres stated his support for H.R. 2328, which would reauthorize

See MEDICAID on Page 4

'Settlement Fund needs \$477.2M to be sustainable by 2024'

» **Investment account made a \$14.5M gain**
» **For the first time, Fund's investment trend is now increasing**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In order for the NMI Settlement Fund to be sustainable by 2024, the CNMI government would need to make a lump sum payment of \$477.2 million to the

See SETTLEMENT on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Women on the Rise honors Saipan native Asia Hilario as its Woman of the Year.

PAGE 6



BUSINESS

Salut Restaurant in Garapan has closed down to make way for Daniel's Coffee Shop.

PAGE 16



ASIA

Philippine health officials on Friday confirmed a second case of polio in the country.

PAGE 17



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Local

Van Gils leaving Kagman High

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan.com
CORRESPONDENT

Kagman High School teacher Gerard Van Gils, the Public School System's Teacher of the Year in 2017, is leaving the islands for the U.S. mainland.

He cited personal reasons for the move. "My family and I are moving to the mainland so that we can be near family. Many of my wife's family members are in great need right now. ...It is difficult for my wife to be away from them right now and we also have lots of nieces and nephews born and we want

to meet and spend time with them," he said.

Van Gil's wife is Amanda Van Gils, a physician assistant at Medical Associates of the Pacific.

He described as being "very torn" by the decision, adding that Amanda Van Gils has many "wonderful patients" that she has worked with in the last seven years and he has many students he has worked with in the last six years at Kagman High School, as well as his role as executive direc-



tor of Marianas Young Professionals. "We are very sad to be leaving but we have to be there for our family right now."

The Van Gils moved to island seven years ago, with a plan to stay for just two years. "We just came here for two years and... I accidentally became a teacher and accidentally helped create the Million Dollar Scholars," he said.

He initiated the college preparation program in 2016 with KHS principal Leila Staffler. He promises to continue working with MyPros and support the Million Dollar Scholars.

"I will keep... supporting the scholars even while I work in the mainland. ...My job has been to work with universities to receive our scholars—give them tuition reduction, housing, food, and academic support. ...I will continue to help our students stay in college, stay successful and return to their islands," he added.

Van Gils said that he will

See MANGLONA on Page 4


SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS
Over \$160,000 in prizes won in the CNMI.

DRAW NUMBER 3983	PACIFIC GOLD	DRAW DATE 9/21/2019			
WINNING NUMBERS					
40	14	32	33	43	29
Next draw JACKPOT			\$2 MILLION		
<i>Get your tickets NOW!</i>					
Visit our NEW website: www.nmsalottery.com Now available on Android and iOS devices.					

 Every child faces challenges when heading back to school. But back-to-school time can be exceptionally difficult for children who suffer from a mental health challenge or a learning disorder. The school environment demands many things that summer activities don't — the ability to sit still, get organized, stay on task, and adapt to a new, highly structured daily schedule. School also requires kids to separate from their parents and interact with peers — an enormous challenging task for any child with anxiety. Here are a few tips parents are share to mentally prepare themselves and their children for back-to-school season.

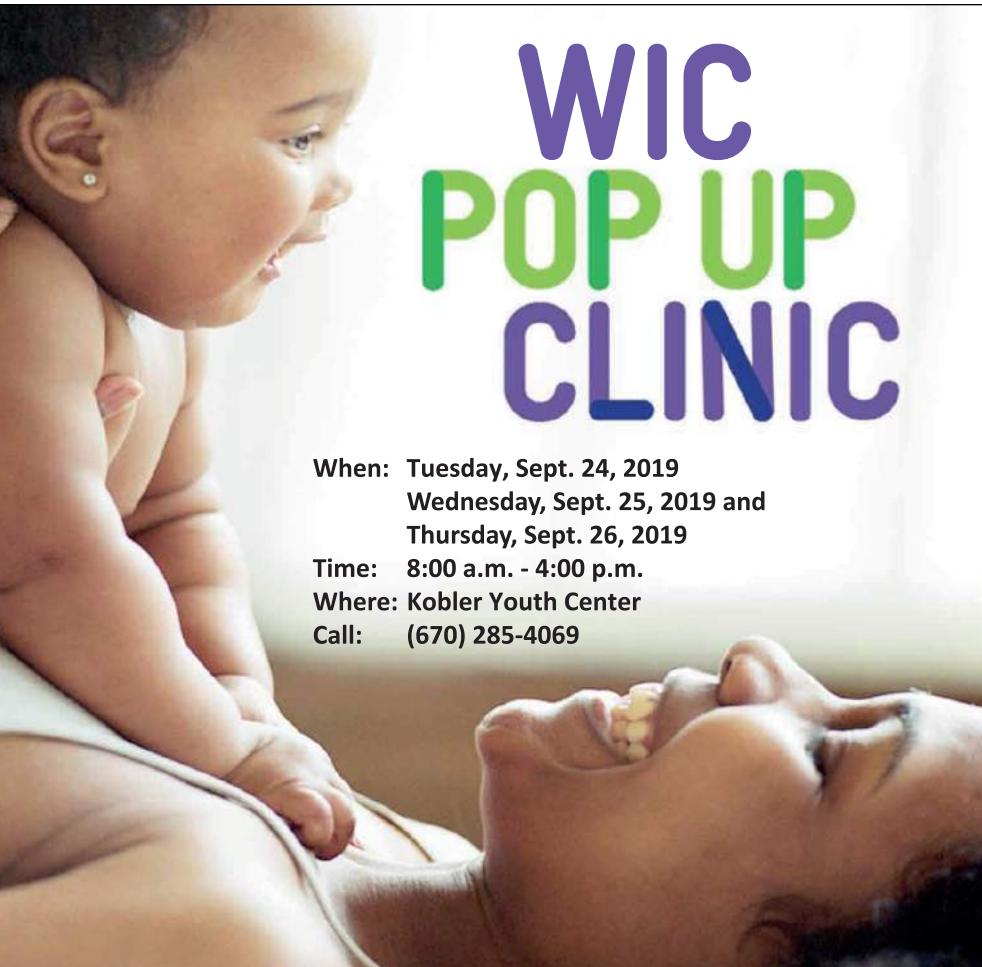
Helping at Home: Tips for Parents

- 1.** The first rule of caring for your child's emotional or behavior struggles is that there are no rules.
- 2.** Cover the basics
- 3.** Pick your battles.
- 4.** Environment matters.
- 5.** Encourage communication.
- 6.** Timing is everything.
- 7.** Create calm.
- 8.** Help them to help themselves
- 9.** Tackle troubling thoughts.
- 10.** Create routines.
- 11.** Check your tone.
- 12.** Learn from other parents.

Information adapted from: <https://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/tips-teachers-ways-help-students-who-struggle-emotions-or-behavior>

For more information on Children's Mental Health Services and Support, please contact: CHCC - CHC System of Care at (670) 664-4604/05 to 09 or Visit our office located at: San Antonio Clinic (former CHCC Dispensary)

This project was supported by Grant 5U77SM02447-04 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA.



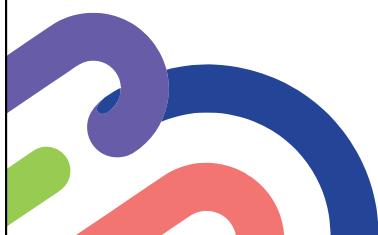
WIC

POP UP

CLINIC

When: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 and
Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Where: Kobler Youth Center
Call: (670) 285-4069

WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NMS CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

NMC: NMI govt will owe \$3.3M

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will be about \$3.3 million short of its fiscal year 2019 budget entering FY 2020, if they do not receive any allocation by the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2019.

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NMC chief financial officer Andrew Reese reported to the that NMC board, though, that the college has only received about \$2.8 million so far from the CNMI government.

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Of the \$500,000 expected from P.L. 20-67 through the Commonwealth Worker Fund or the Commonwealth Worker Apprenticeship Program, Reese said that NMC has only received \$250,000.

In all, NMC was supposed to receive a total of \$6.7 million in fiscal year 2019, but has only received \$3.19 million to date. That means NMC has received only about 47% of its FY19 revenue.

With the austerity measures that were implemented at the college last April, the funds that were expected to go to NMC in fiscal year 2019 was dropped from \$6.7 million to \$5.9 million, which is a 15% decrease. Yet even then, NMC is still owed funds. Including the cut from austerity measures, NMC has only gotten about 53% of its overall allotments for fiscal year 2019.

NMC will also be receiving \$500,000 through Saipan Local Law 21-05, which adjusts the local appropriations of poker licensing fees. This funding is seen to help NMC get out of austerity measures.

NMC board member Michael Evangelista suggested that NMC should be more forthright with the central government about the needed funds, as NMC will not be able to take any further cuts in fiscal year 2020.

The board fully agreed with Evangelista's suggestion.

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staff of NMC's budget and finance committee met with the various departments on all of NMC's campuses to see which expenditures were to be prioritized and what could be cut in order to accommodate the austerity measures.

Once the austerity measures were implemented, NMC offices were set to half-day schedules on Fridays until further notice.

Reese reported that NMC's record of financial stewardship and responsibility is over 20 years to date and he considers it as a spotless record, and that this long record allowed NMC to absorb the cuts from the aust-

erity measures without cutting employee salaries. However, he reported that NMC will not be able to sustain another year of financial cuts.



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2019 MAZDA 3 SPORT PLUS		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9D125	Machine Gray, 2.5L, 4 cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera and alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$21,995
9D126	Soul Red, 2.5L, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera and alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$21,995
9D127	Snowflake White, 2.5L, 4-cyl. Engine AT, back-up camera & alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$21,995
9D128	Jet Black, 2.5L, 4 cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera and alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$21,995

MAZDA 6 SPORT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9D146	Arctic White, 2.5-liter, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$2,000	\$24,995
9D148	Sonic Silver, 2.5-liter, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$2,000	\$24,995

MAZDA 6 GT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9D114	Jet Black, 4 cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$2,000	\$27,995
9D150	Snowflake White Pearl, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$27,995

CX-3 SPORT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9D071	Machine Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$4,000	\$19,995

Mazda Logo

CX-5 GT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9D111	Soul Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$3,000	\$27,995
9D119	Arctic White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$3,000	\$27,995

CX-5 SPORT

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8D288	Sonic Silver, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$23,995
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9D162	Jet Black, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$23,995
9D163	Deep Crystal Blue, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$23,995
9D165	Machine Gray, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$23,995
9D166	Soul Red, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$23,995

CX-9 SPORT

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9D083	Snowflake White Pearl, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$5,000	\$39,995
9D084	Sonic Silver, 4 cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$5,000	\$39,995



HYUNDAI

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE		DISCOUNT	PRICE
OH013	Intense Blue, 2.0 L, 4 cyl Eng, 147HP, rearview camera, 6 speed	\$2,000	\$18,995
OH014	Polar White, 2.0 L, 4-cyl Eng, 147HP, rearview camera, 6 speed	\$2,000	\$18,995
OH015	Denim Blue, 2.0 L, 4 cyl Eng, 147HP, rearview camera, 6 speed	\$2,000	\$18,995

2020 ELANTRA SPORT		DISCOUNT	PRICE
OH016	Polar White, 1.6 Turbo charged GDI 4 cyl Eng, alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$24,995
OH021	Fiery Red, 1.6 Turbo charged GDI 4 cyl Eng, alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$24,995
OH022	Fluid Metal, 1.6 Turbo charged GDI 4 cyl Eng, alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$24,995

2019 TUCSON		DISCOUNT	PRICE
OH086	Black, 4 cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$2,000	\$22,995
9H103	Pure White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$22,995
9H105	White Cream, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$22,995
9H107	Black, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$22,995
9H108	Gemstone Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$22,995

2019 KONA L		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9H081	Pulse Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$5,000	\$19,995
9H082	Tangerine Comet, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$5,000	\$19,995
9H083	Dark Knight, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$5,000	\$19,995
9H084	Chalk White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$5,000	\$19,995

2020 VELOSTER ULTIMATE TURBO COUPE		DISCOUNT	PRICE
OH001	Chalk White, 4-cyl. Engine, MT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$26,995
OH002	Sunset Ocean, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	\$2,000	\$26,995



MITSUBISHI

2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE HATCHBACK		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9M088	Black Mica, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$15,995
9M102	Titanium Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$15,995
9M103	White Pearl, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$15,995
9M121	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$15,995

2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9M117	Blue Mica, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$15,995
9M119	White Pearl, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$15,995

OUTLANDER SPORT SEL		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9M053	White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$4,000	\$21,995
9M111	Titanium Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$4,000	\$21,995

OUTLANDER SPORT SE		DISCOUNT	PRICE
9M069	White Pearl, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$25,995
9M074	Quartz Brown, 4 cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	\$3,000	\$25,995



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marc_venus@saipantribune.com
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Mazda Logo

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HOLLYWOOD

From Page 1

in May 1992, management decided to close the store only last week when it dawned on them that their CW visa renewals will not make it before the expiration date, which is the end of the fiscal year on

Sept. 30, 2019.

"We cried when we were told that we were closing down...as the possibility of running out of tickets is high. Our boss booked our tickets and we don't want to run the risk of being out of status," she said.

"It is sad, too, because I will leave my husband and three

children. ...Although I know that there is a big chance that I will come back and hope that the wait in my home country (the Philippines) will only be for a short time, the sadness is still there," she added.

Hollywood Video has been in business since 1992 with its first branch in San Jose. Currently, it has two stores: in As

Lito and Garapan. Manabat said that the Garapan branch where she works is disposing most of its merchandise by selling DVDs for \$1.50 and Blu-Ray discs for \$4.99.

"Whatever is left will be transferred to the Hollywood Video in the As Lito branch, which will stay open...we are rushing everything

so that the company still have manpower to transfer the products to our As Lito store," Manabat said.

"We find comfort from our loyal customers who keep telling us don't lose hope because there are five days left for a miracle. ...In my more than 20 years here, we have overcome many highs and lows, many competitors like Netflix rose... but our boss loves this store [so much] that, even if we don't make a profit, he says we will stay open as long as we get to pay the rent on time and employees' salaries are not delayed. In the end, it is actually the CW issue that will actu-

ally close this store down," she added.

In less than a week before she leaves Saipan, Manabat hangs on to the thought that the CW renewal applications will be given an extension. "It is our only chance to keep our jobs and be with our families. ...This is definitely a hard time. ...I feel really sentimental about this store because everything I own or possess, it is because of my work here at Hollywood Video," she said.

And just like many movies that Manabat sells or rents out at Hollywood Video, she hopes that this CW issue will also have a happy ending for her and for all of the workers.

SETTLEMENT

From Page 1

Fund today. Alternatively, additional funding could also be made to the Settlement Fund over time.

These were the options outlined by NMI Settlement Fund's trustee Joyce C. H. Tang in her report filed Friday with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Tang's report covered the combined period from the fourth quarter fiscal year 2017 through third quarter fiscal year 2019.

Tang also reported that, at the end of fiscal year 2018, the balance in the Settlement Fund's investment account was \$82.9 million, while the balance as of July 31, 2019, was at \$97.4 million, showing a gain of \$14.5 million.

For the first time, the Settlement Fund investment trend is now increasing, said Tang, indicating that the fiscal year 2017's end balance of the investment account was \$73 million, which was at \$83 million in fiscal year 2018 and \$97 million in fiscal year 2019.

Tang said that she and the Settlement Fund's investment consultant, Wilshire Investments principal Maggie Ralbovsky, met with NMI government leaders to discuss ways to achieve full financial sustainability by fiscal year 2024.

Assuming expected returns

on investments of 4% per year, the present value of the future benefit payment obligations of the Settlement Fund equals \$575 million, she said.

The trustee said after deducting the \$97.8 million in the investment account, a lump sum payment of \$477.2 million to the Settlement Fund today would enable the Fund to be fully funded and financially sustainable.

Tang said assuming additional contributions (above the required minimum contributions) would be made consistently through the next five years, to achieve sustainability by the end of fiscal year 2024, the Settlement Fund requires \$325 million (includes the \$97.8 million in the Fund's investment accounts) by end of fiscal year 2024, "after which no further expected contributions are required."

She said if the government were to pay an additional \$45 million per year in addition to the Minimum Annual Payment for five years, the Settlement Fund would be able to adopt a more aggressive asset allocation to achieve a 5% expected return, and is expected then to be fully funded and sustainable.

Tang suggested three ways that the government can raise the additional \$45 million per year: reducing the rebate of taxes by 20% or more, floating a tax-free general obligation bond (not pension obligation bond), or raising money

through the sale or lease of government land.

Tang attributed the Settlement Fund's drastic improvement of its course in large part to the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and other CNMI leaders' commitment to pay \$1 million each week toward the reduction of the MAP and the payment of the Alternative Payment of a Greater Amount.

That commitment, she said, gave the Settlement Fund a chance to invest its money.

The settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action requires the government to make AGPA payments equal to the difference of 17% of the government's total annual revenue, after deducting the amount of MAP paid.

To date, Tang said, the Settlement Fund has achieved a return of 5.8% for this fiscal year.

She said as of July 31, 2019, the balance in the Settlement Fund's investment account is \$97.4 million—representing 92.87% of the initial Fund corpus at Dec. 31, 2013.

Corpus refers to the capital of the organization and in this case, the Settlement Fund.

When the Settlement Fund was formed in October 2013, \$128,417 was transferred to the Settlement Fund's investment account.

Tang said after paying Public Law 17-82 payments in November 2013, totaling \$40.6 million, the remaining

balance in the account on Dec. 31, 2013, was \$104.9 million.

Tang said the Settlement Fund's better than expected investment return was attributed in part to falling interest rates since the beginning of 2019, and the financial markets' responding positively to the perceived new round of stimulus coming from lower interest rates.

The trustee noted that the court and retirees should know that the CNMI government has been diligent in honoring its agreement to pay MAP in allotments of \$1 million per week.

Tang said Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, together with members of the Legislature, have persevered through the natural disaster of Super Typhoon Yutu and ongoing financial difficulties, which have left the government with chronic cash shortages.

Tang said the CNMI leaders worked with her to give the Settlement Fund the priority required to avoid significant drawdowns on investments.

She said it is the leaders' commitment to the government's obligations, which has reversed the negative trajectory of the investment trend and allowed the Fund to accumulate reserves to cover benefit payments for a two-year period.

"The trustee appreciates the dedication and commitment shown by the leadership of the CNMI government," Tang added.

res also pointed out that two other programs funded by the REACH Act does not include the CNMI.

"As written, the Marianas would not be eligible for the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program and the All-Payer Claims Database Program unless 'territories' is included in the definition of the state," Torres wrote. "Inclusion in both programs would have significant positive impacts on our healthcare system, especially with cost containment and quality improvement, a major benefit of the All-Payer Claims Database Program."

He emphasized that the CNMI being a remote Pacific territory, there is only one hospital serving a "disproportionate number of low-income patients."

"In 2018, our hospital recorded more than \$11 million in gross revenue, yet closed the year with a \$7-million

deficit due to uncompensated care," Torres wrote.

In a separate letter dated Sept. 12, 2019, Torres joined governors of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico for a fairer Medicaid reimbursement compared to the U.S. states.

"If Congress does not act before Sept. 30, 2019...our enrollees may lose their Medicaid coverage and access to compensated care aimed at treating life-threatening disease and conditions and preventing needless deaths," the letter noted. "It is our hope that Congress will work with the U.S. territories to reverse course and resolve the Medicaid funding cliff. Failure to do so will constitute a man-made disaster and a blot on the human rights record of the United States," the letter continued.

All five territory governors signed the letter.

...I will miss Kagman High, I miss them already and it has been a privilege to be a teacher there," he added.

In less than a week before she leaves Saipan, Manabat hangs on to the thought that the CW renewal applications will be given an extension. "It is our only chance to keep our jobs and be with our families. ...This is definitely a hard time. ...I feel really sentimental about this store because everything I own or possess, it is because of my work here at Hollywood Video," she said.

And just like many movies that Manabat sells or rents out at Hollywood Video, she hopes that this CW issue will also have a happy ending for her and for all of the workers.

LOSS

From Page 1

of the applicants they feared would not make the Sept. 30, 2019 deadline were 'key employees,'" the Chamber further noted.

The survey also revealed that 50% of respondents have five CW workers or less. Approximately 80% had less than 20 CW workers.

"This shows that most of respondents are small businesses or those that rely less on foreign labor as a whole," the Chamber noted.

While processing times for the CW renewal petitions were problematic at first, the Chamber recognized that the U.S. Department of Labor had been effective in ramping up the processing times for the requirements for CW petition renewals as of late.

"We thank the USDOL for the speed in processing to ensure more key employees will not have to leave [the islands] before Sept. 30, 2019," the Chamber noted.

"However, there are a significant number of 'key employees' that employers fear will have to exodus before Sept. 30, 2019. This will cause delays in providing key services to clients customers, private agencies, and government contracts," the Chamber noted.

The CNMI has only 12,500 slots for CW slots in fiscal year 2020.

volunteer hours after typhoon Yutu and we cleaned roads from Pau Pau Beach to Obyan Beach," he added.

Van Gils said that he and his family agree that Saipan is the first place outside the U.S. mainland where they felt loved and at home. "It's the first place I've felt like my neighbors were my family, first place that I've loved my neighbor as myself and that is how my wife feels too. It's really been our privilege to serve, love, and live with the people of the NMI."

"... I will miss Kagman High, I miss them already and it has been a privilege to be a teacher there," he added.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

rize and extend the America's Community Health Act, or REACH Act, emphasizing the CNMI's need for Medicaid support.

"Without this legislation, the Marianas and other U.S. insular areas face a fiscal cliff, as supplemental Medicaid funding provided for us in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act [or Obamacare] is exhausted," he wrote the senators.

The REACH Act raises the annual block grant for the Marianas from \$6.95 million to \$60 million and results in a Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage reportedly "comparable" to the U.S. state with the lowest per-capita income.

"[The REACH Act] would fund the Medicaid program in the CNMI for another six years," Torres wrote. "...

While these are significant changes, they are not out of line with our need."

CNMI Medicaid through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019, or H.R. 2157, was enacted in early June 2019. The legislation provided \$36 million in additional Medicaid funding for the CNMI.

"In just over three months' time, \$31 million of that money has been expended," Torres said.

The REACH Act also extends community health centers, the special diabetes program, and family to family health information centers for four years. The Marianas participates in all these programs and they contribute significantly to the health of our people," Torres wrote to the senators.

While the REACH Act extends several programs the CNMI participates in, Tor-

res also pointed out that two other programs funded by the REACH Act does not include the CNMI.

"As written, the Marianas would not be eligible for the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program and the All-Payer Claims Database Program unless 'territories' is included in the definition of the state," Torres wrote. "Inclusion in both programs would have significant positive impacts on our healthcare system, especially with cost containment and quality improvement, a major benefit of the All-Payer Claims Database Program."

He emphasized that the CNMI being a remote Pacific territory, there is only one hospital serving a "disproportionate number of low-income patients."

"In 2018, our hospital recorded more than \$11 million in gross revenue, yet closed the year with a \$7-million

GILS

From Page 2

also continue to work with teachers and educators in the CNMI.

With seven years of helping the growth and development of education in the CNMI under his belt, Van Gils is also proud of his volunteer work during typhoons Soudelor, Mangkhut, and Yutu.

"I was ready, along with MyPros, to respond to the storm and I am most proud that...My Pros stepped up and delivered 70,000 meals after Soudelor. I am proud of our community. We have documented more than 26,000

volunteer hours after typhoon Yutu and we cleaned roads from Pau Pau Beach to Obyan Beach," he added.

Former contractor files \$21M suit against IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of withholding the filing of a lawsuit based on Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's alleged numerous promises to pay its debt, the former general contractor on IPI's hotel-casino development project in Garapan decided Friday to bring a court action in federal court to collect \$21.3 million in damages.

Pacific Rim Land Development LLC is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note) and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold IPI and co-defendants liable to pay \$10 million in contract damages, \$5,650,000 for mechanic's lien, and \$5,650,000 for the sum certain under the promissory note.

The plaintiff also demanded other damages, pre and post-judgment interest, restitution, and attorney's fees and court costs.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still

SYP seminar features Coach Pain

The Saipan Young Professionals is hosting a motivational seminar by Coach Pain tomorrow, Sept. 24, 2019.

SYP has also arranged appearances and mini-sessions for students at Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

Through this outreach, SYP hopes to provide a fresh perspective on an emotional and/or mental level to help students make professional and personal changes in their daily lives and within themselves. Coach Pain will focus on emotional and mental wellness in line with Suicide Prevention Awareness Month this

awaiting comments from IPI. Thompson said in court papers that approximately \$10 million remains due and owing for the work performed by Pacific Rim on the project.

During the months after IPI failed and refused to pay its obligation to pay, plaintiff repeatedly requested IPI to pay the amounts due and owing, but IPI failed and refused to pay.

Thompson said that on Sept. 21, 2018, IPI executed a promissory note in favor of Pacific Rim for the payment of principal in the amount of \$11.3 million.

Thompson said IPI promised to pay the principal amount according to a payment schedule, with the entire amount paid to plaintiff on or before June 15, 2019.

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the promissory note, IPI promised to pay \$1.2 million on or before Nov. 15, 2018.

Thompson said IPI failed to pay the amount due on Nov. 15, 2018, making only half of the payment.

Thompson said IPI, despite repeated demands and despite numerous promises, has not

paid the promissory note in full and only partial payments between Nov. 15, 2018, and August 2019.

The lawyer said IPI paid Pacific Rim a total of \$5,655,000 toward the principal.

Thompson said IPI is in default of the promissory note for failure to make payments in full when due.

He said IPI agreed that the unpaid balance shall bear interest at the rate of 12% per annum.

Thompson said IPI presently owes Pacific Rim \$5,650,000 plus interest rate of 12% per annum.

Stay connected

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Woman pleads guilty to bank fraud

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was accused of stealing \$12,208 from her mother's bank account pleaded guilty plea in federal court last Friday.

At a change of plea hearing, Janee Marie Famy Babauta pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud. She will be sentenced on Dec. 18, 2019, at 1:30pm.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona rdered the U.S. Pro-

bation Office to submit a pre-sentence investigation report by Oct. 25, 2019.

Following the guilty plea, the jury trial set for Oct. 8, 2019 was vacated.

The judge allowed Babauta to remain out of prison until she her sentencing because the U.S. Probation Office had reported that she has been compliant with the terms and conditions that the court had previously ordered.

Bruce Berline served as the court-appointed counsel for Babauta. Assistant U.S. attor-

ney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the indict-

ment, between March 20 and April 15, 2019, Babauta pro-

vided her mother's personal

identifying information in order to gain access and control of her mother's Bank of Guam

savings account.

The defendant then allegedly drained about \$12,208 from the account for her own use through online transfers, transactions, and purchases.

that reading her blog made the woman brave enough to go to a psychiatrist and, after being diagnosed with anxiety and depression, is getting help through therapy.

"This brought me to tears because not only did I help her personally, I know I helped her friends, her boyfriend, her loved ones, and her future family for generations to come," Hilario said. "When people take care of their mental health, their entire life changes for the better."

The Saipan-born woman of the year also had just created an organization called "South Bay Content Creators," which is a platform where female bloggers, content creators, and influencers can help each other out in content creation.

The organization is set to launch by the end of October in Palo Alto, in California. Aside from this, Hilario will also be speaker at the Speak-Life Women's Conference, a mental health conference, this October.

Aside from her advocacies, Hilario has also raised money to provide clean drinking water to impoverished countries, to help the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, as well as to send relief to Saipan after Super Typhoon Yutu.

With her heart on Saipan, Hilario's wish is to make Saipan proud. "I want to put the CNMI on the map. I want to make my people proud, and everything I do is for my people! I love the CNMI and I couldn't be prouder that they named a Saipan-native woman of the year."

Follow Hilario and support her advocacies through her blog, islahoney.com.

Asia Hilario, SSF Woman of the Year

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This article is part of "Spotlight," a recurring series featuring CNMI personalities. To suggest a person to feature in this section, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.

SPOTLIGHT

Women on the Rise, a women empowerment organization based in South San Francisco in California, recently honored a Saipan native as its Woman of the Year. Her name, Asia Hilario.

Hilario is a lifestyle blogger advocating women empowerment, mental health, and wellness. She is a crisis counselor for CrisisTextLine, and a brand ambassador for Kuros, an organization whose mission is to enhance the safety and mobility of women around the world.

Just last Sept. 14, Hilario was recognized by one of South San Francisco Mayor Karyl Matsumoto's pet project organizations, South San Francisco's Women's Conference: Empower, Elevate, Enrich.

"I believe that by lifting up other women, an entire community, and entire society can elevate," Hilario said. "Women are powerful be-



Saipan native Asia Hilario was awarded "Woman of the Year" last Sep. 14 by Women on the Rise, a non-government organization based in South San Francisco in California.

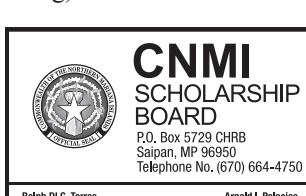
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

la Camacho.

Hilario is also trying to break the negative stigma around mental health. She believes therapy is life-changing, and wants people to not be afraid of it.

"I'm trying to de-stigmatize seeking [mental] help for those who need it. The more we talk about mental health, the braver people will be to not only seek help, but to speak about it as well. The biggest struggle I've had in the past was feeling like I was alone in my struggles. I want to use my voice to make sure that no one else feels that they're alone in their struggles," she said.

Hilario also remembers an instance when a woman reached out to her and said



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the PM Building, Room 104, San Jose Village, Tinian, in the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Office and Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Annual Report
 - 1. Final Review and Approval

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Letter of Appeal
 - 1. Board Action
 - 2. Vocational Education Applicant
 - 3. Board Action

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/S/ Rodney Cabarles
Chairman, TMSB

1 We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each.
Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
2 Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
3 Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. FY2020 Budget
 - b. Nursing Scholarship
- VII. New Business
 - a. 3rd Annual CNMI Scholarship Month
 - b. Academic Year 2019/2020 Programs
- VIII. CSO Administrator's Updates
- IX. Executive Session
- X. Announcements & Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

/S/ Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman



Asia Hilario, with her mom, Lucille, at the SSF Women's Conference: Empower, Elevate, Enrich, where she was awarded "Woman of the Year".

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

US House OKs continuing resolution

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a continuing resolution that would keep the federal government running at least until Nov. 21, 2019, while also including an extension to the NMI's exemption to the Medicaid reimbursements.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced

over the weekend that the U.S. House, in a roll call vote on first reading on Sept. 19, 2019, passed U.S. Rep. Nite Lowey's (D-NY) H.R. 4378, or the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019.

The legislation ultimately extends until late 2019 the same budget for the federal government in fiscal year 2019. Sablan noted, though,

that clauses were inserted in the legislation that sustains the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, or FMAP, for the NMI from June 2019's H.R. 2157, or the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019. The legislation now heads to the U.S. Senate for review and action.

The FMAP determines the amount the CNMI has to pay in matching funds annually for cer-

tain medical and social service programs such as Medicaid.

Sablan noted in his newsletter that the bill includes an eight-week extension of the 100% FMAP "that I added to the [HR 2157] in June, so no local match of federal Medicaid dollars is required for the time being."

By including this eight-week extension temporarily exempting the CNMI from lo-

cal matching for Medicaid, the Democratic House leadership has "made clear that Medicaid funding for the Marianas and the other insular areas is an issue that needs resolution now."

Sablan's H.R. 2328, which seeks to secure \$360 million for Marianas Medicaid over the next six years, got the go-signal to leave the committee level through voice vote. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres sent

» NMI Medicaid FMAP still at 100% in new legislation

a letter addressed to U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), chairman and ranking member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance respectively, requesting for support on H.R. 2328.

Without this, the Marianas and other U.S. insular areas will face a fiscal cliff, as supplemental Medicaid funding provided under Obamacare is exhausted," he wrote.

VOX POPULI: What do you think is Saipan's biggest environmental problem and what can we do to solve it?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

We asked volunteers of this year's International Coastal Cleanup what they think is the biggest environmental problem on the island and what should be done about it. Here's what they have to say:



Billimon

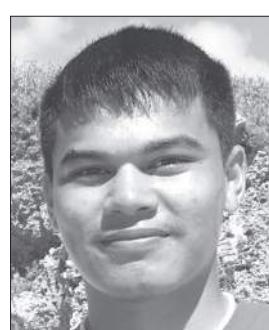
ways pick up after yourselves. Also, if you see trash on the beaches, pick it up. It doesn't hurt to have everyone just come together and pick up garbage because it's harming our beaches.

—Naomi Billimon, Koblerville

The biggest environmental threat on our island is pollution, mainly dealing with plastic where a lot of people use plastic when they go to stores and they use plastic bags. To solve it, we should reduce our amount of plastic use.



Camacho



Fitipol

—Miguel Fitipol, Capital Hill

Use reusable bags when you go shopping and use metal straws instead of plastic ones.

—Trinity Camacho, Beach Road

I feel like the biggest environmental threat right now would be pollution. If garbage is everywhere, it could really affect us and when we are affected, it could affect our environment. Basically, it's a cycle. When that cycle repeats, it gets worse. And I feel like the best solution to resolve this threat would be having less garbage around, getting together, picking it up.



Fernandez



Navarette

—Anne Navarette, San Vicente

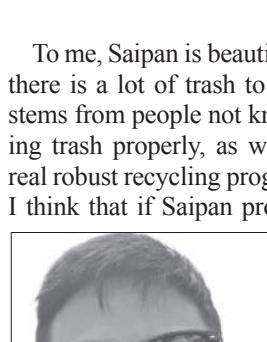
to start doing the right [thing], and not throw trash... anywhere.

—Ronald Fernandez, LaoLao Bay

I believe the biggest problems we face coastal-wise would be the marine debris, especially after Super Typhoon Yutu, which swept most of the trash toward the coastal areas. To solve this, I think we should chip in, come together either through cleanups, even as individual or as a community, and come help chip in clean up in any way.



Reyes



Chung

do more of what we are doing today—this annual ICC. Maybe more locals and tourists should help pitch in. It's fun and a good workout. It's nice to bring your kids and your family members.

—Mandy F. Reyes, Dandan

To me, Saipan is beautiful but I noticed that there is a lot of trash to be found. I think it stems from people not knowing about throwing trash properly, as well as there is not a real robust recycling program here on Saipan. I think that if Saipan produces a good recycling program for glass, plastics, metal, I think that would go a long way to keeping Saipan beautiful, and more tourists would come out here and enjoy and contribute to the economy.

—Eugene Chung, Capital Hill



Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN,
FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING, AND
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

NMC RQS 19-001

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualifications Statement's" for Architectural/Engineering services. The Statements of Qualification is due not later than 10:00am on September 27, 2019, Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

The requests for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" Packet are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing Monday at 10:00am, August 26, 2019. No fee is required for obtaining the RQS packets.

Pre-submittal conference is scheduled for Friday, 10:00am on September 13, 2019 at NMC Conference Room, Building P.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement. Interested firms/individuals located outside of the CNMI may request for the RQS packet by e-mail address to Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all statement of professional qualification for any reason if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office

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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ASIA PACIFIC HOTEL PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2019-X-045

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Asia Pacific Hotel project in Garapan, Saipan.

The First Pacific Investment Group, Inc. is proposing to renovate, expand, and convert two adjoining 2-story commercial building into a 3-story hotel. The hotel will be located along Royal Palm Avenue and Coffee Tree Mall in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 08, 002 D 09, and 002 D 10. The hotel will consists of 88 rooms with a lobby at the main entrance, 11 commercial units, generator room, 30 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces and an additional 48 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces which will be situated at a nearby location along Date Street and Coconut Street in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 21 and 002 D 22.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 08, 2019, 5PM, at the BECQ 2nd Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor, on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Asia Pacific Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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T Galleria showcases Marianas culture in art display

Returning for its second year at T Galleria to promote local artists for Cultural Heritage Month, this year's Marianas Cultural Art Gallery features local traditional and contemporary artists including Delli-na Lieto, Greg Bacnis, Cherry Camigla, Flowerpot Salas, Ireneo David, and Sylvia Dagutan. These talented artists will be showcasing their art work at T Galleria to tourists

who are visiting from around the world, where they can appreciate the talent that we have on the island. Should tourists want to bring these special pieces back home with them as authentic souvenir from Saipan, the prices of art pieces range from \$3 to \$200.

The gallery will be complemented with live demonstrations and performances this Friday and Saturday, Sept. 27-

28. Live demonstrations given by featured artists will occur from 6pm to 7pm, followed by live performances from Man Antigo, Refaluwasch Warriors, Northern Starts, Abby Kaipat, Tatz Selepeo, Sunrise Cruisers, and Samoan Dancers from 7pm to 9pm.

"We are very thankful to DFS. They are a longtime sponsor of our activities and this is the second year for this



Int'l cultural fest at the Paseo

The Marianas Visitors Authority celebrated its 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last Friday and Saturday. The event kicked off with a Parade of Cultures that began with a walk from the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan to the Paseo de Marianas.

Although the event was short on crowd size Friday night due to the Vibe Fest Marianas happening at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, the MVA saw over 100 spectators

on its final night last Saturday

The parade was led by 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto and members of the varying cultural groups in the CNMI. Shortly after participants reached the venue, MVA held a short fashion show to showcase the cultural clothing from the many different cultural groups on island.

MVA Community Project coordinator Jack Aranda said the event was slated to be held for just for one day, but the MVA decided to add an-

other day due to the arriving tourists from Japan, courtesy of Skymark Airlines Inc.

Returning for this year's celebration were the communities of Korea, Japan, Tonga/Fiji/Samoa, the Federated State of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, China, Cook Islands/Marquesas/Tahiti, the Marianas, and Bangladesh.

The festival used to be held every Saturday throughout September. There was no immediate word why the festival's duration has been scaled back. (*Marc A. Venus*)



Local healers, courtesy of the Indigenous Affairs Office, give spectators at the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday a chance to see how traditional medicine works as a cure. **MARC A. VENUS**



particular activity that brings our visual and traditional arts directly to our visitor market, provides exposure to artists and at no-cost to the artists," said Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter. "We are very appreciative that DFS makes this space available to us and I encourage our community to go down and take a look at the art work on display."

The Marianas Cultural Art Gallery is open until Sept. 30, from 10:30am to 10:30pm at the T Galleria by DFS, Saipan. The gallery is made possible in partnership by DFS and the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. For more information, call 322-9982 or 788-2478. (*PR*)



Bishop Ryan Jimenez, left, along with members of Mount Carmel School's Leadership Team, gathered with MCS students to cut the ceremonial ribbon, signifying the reopening of the school gymnasium. Photo includes MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, third from right; MCS principal, Barbara Merfalen, second from right; and MCS Faculty representative Filmah Buenaflo, first from right. **MCS**

MCS reopens gymnasium

Mount Carmel School reopened its gymnasium last Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, about 11 months after being destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony began with a prayer and blessing led by the bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Rev. Ryan Jimenez. Students from grades K4 through 12 then lined up along the gym and cut the ceremonial ribbon with the MCS Leadership Team, members of the MCS board, and Jimenez.

Restoring the gym was significant to the MCS family because the gymnasium served as a major center for campus life. Until the storm, the gym served as the center for athletics, the school cafeteria, and the performing arts venue for annual events. Members of the community also used the gym

as a facility for sports and outdoor activities.

Throughout the reconstruction of the gym, the school's leadership sought the help of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine the school's options for mitigation. After following the appropriate process and procedures, Mount Carmel School was able to fund temporary fixes until such time the necessary funds to fully restore the structure could be issued.

Historically, the gym has housed significant moments in CNMI history including the negotiations and signing of both the CNMI Constitution and Covenant. For these reasons, the Mount Carmel School gymnasium was deemed a historic landmark by the CNMI Historic Preservation Office. No changes

have been made to the design and structure of the gym to respect the historic nature of the facility.

"We are so happy to finally have our gym back," said MCS Student Council president Kalea Borja. "The gym is the center of student life at Mount Carmel School and we are excited to host sports events, student activities, and performances throughout the year."

"The gym was one of our biggest projects from Super Typhoon Yutu, and it still is," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "Although the gym is now available for use, there's more to come for our students but, more importantly, for our local community."

To learn more about Mount Carmel School, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com or call 234-6184 to schedule a tour of the campus. (*PR*)

Keeping language resources alive at JKPL

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The celebration of the Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month is in full swing, especially for the youth, with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosting a special Read Aloud as well as an arts and crafts activity for children last Saturday, Sept. 21, at the JKPL Children's Room.

Read Aloud parent Anthony S. Michael, who was a special guest from the Carolinian community, read the book *Unu Dos Tres/Eét, rúuw, éél*, which is about counting in Carolinian, while children's librarian Rosalinda Ulloa read *Håfa Un A'atan?*, a Chamorro book that translates as, "What are you looking at?"

Part of JKPL's mission is to promote literacy, especially the indigenous languages. The CNMI has two—Chamorro and Carolinian—and the library makes available free language learning resources related to both.

"It is very important to keep our language resources alive, and we are happy



Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted a special Read Aloud session, as well as an arts and crafts activity for the children, and a music/dance performance last Saturday, Sept. 21, to celebrate the Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month.

to promote Chamorro and Carolinian languages here," said JKPL technical services librarian Beth Demapan. "While both languages are taught in schools, the library also serves as an additional resource for families who do not have basic Chamorro or Carolinian knowledge. They

can come to the library."

Aside from the special Read Aloud, the children also had a mwarmwar arts and crafts session. Music group Southern Warriors also serenaded the library-goers with traditional music and held a mini-local dance tutorial, to the delight of the children.

Kaylee Heath, with husband Brandon and their two children, who moved to the island from Washington state, participated in the Read Aloud, the mwarmwar making, and gamely joined the dance tutorial.

Heath said they are making that special effort to expose their children to local culture. "I feel like it's our job to

The Airstream signs on as NMC ProaPerks partner

The Airstream is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partner, joining many other businesses and organizations.

The NMC ProaPerks program provides exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

As an NMC ProaPerks partner, that means The Airstream will offer a 10% discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages to all card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program.

The Airstream joins the growing list of NMC ProaPerks partners, such as 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, All Star Sporting Goods, Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, Bubba Gump, Capricciosa, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Garapan Restaurant, Gold's Gym Saipan, Great Harvest, Hardt Eye Clinic, Hertz Car Rental, Iridescent Boutique, JC Cafe Restaurant (Tinian), JD's Boutique (Rota), Judy's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Built Gym, Megabyte of Saipan, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, NMC Bookstore, Pena House Boutique, Pokiyaki, Saipan Computer Services, Salty's, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Surf Club, Tribe Marianas, The Shack, Tony Roma's, The Pacific Sup-

ply, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Creations.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. Cards will be available in October 2019. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu/proaperks.php.

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learn about it so that we can respect it and understand people," Heath said. "I think it's important for my kids to be exposed to all sorts of different kinds of cultures because we just have one worldview, and I feel like we are really limited. The more things that we do to understand different people, the more open we become to new ideas."

With children from different countries and different backgrounds coming in the library, JKPL is able to promote the local languages to different cultures.

"This gives them [children and their parents] an appreciation of the native inhabitants of Saipan," Demapan said.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-CCC-137**
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
**"LEASE OF ONE (1) MULTI-FUNCTION COLOR COPIER MACHINE,
NETWORK PRINTER, SCANNER I-FAX, AND FAX RENTAL FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIACT SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, OR WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
*/S/ EDWARD DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCC*
*/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S*

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-037

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's report to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vapers, beware the risks. But cities shouldn't prohibit sales to adults

The national discussion about the health risks of vaping involves both the long-term effects of e-cigarettes and an immediate crisis. At last count, 380 lung disease cases in 36 states, along with seven deaths, have been linked to vaping. It appears from news reports that many of those cases involve vaping not a nicotine product but THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Government agencies and medical researchers are still investigating.

Those cases serve as the backdrop for a movement both nationally and locally to crack down on vaping. This week, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot proposed a citywide ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes. An alderman went further, pushing for a ban on all vaping products.

Last week, President Donald Trump called for a nationwide ban on flavored e-cigarettes. Before Trump's announcement, Michigan had issued an emergency directive banning flavored vaping products. On Tuesday, New York's state Public Health and Health Planning Council voted to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes and other vaping products except for menthol and tobacco flavors.

Smoking tobacco products is a dangerous habit. Cigarettes kill. Much less is understood about vaping's effects. E-cigarettes, which are smokeless and don't contain tobacco, generally produce fewer toxic chemicals than the deadly mix of 7,000 chemicals in smoke from regular cigarettes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The vaping industry says its products help people wean themselves from cigarettes. But does vaping, too, have long-term health risks? As of now, it's vapers beware.

On one point, there is little debate. Robust efforts to keep teens from vaping make sense. Nearly a quarter of teens in a 2018 survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse said they had vaped within the past month. That's double the 2017 rate. And vaping can put teens on the path of a lifelong tobacco habit: According to a recent Journal of the American Medical Association study, youths 12 to 17 who vaped are twice as likely to become regular tobacco smokers within a year.

The medical verdict on vaping isn't in. Investigations about the current epidemic of lung disease cases continue. Everyone would like to know with certainty, as soon as possible, how vaping's dangers compare with the known dangers of cigarette smoking. But that's for tomorrow, and public officials are making policies today.

For now, if you're underage, you shouldn't be anywhere near vaping products, including flavored ones. It's on retailers and law enforcement to rigorously abide by Illinois' new law.

If you're an adult, the decision is yours to make. Prohibiting the sale of vaping products to adults isn't City Hall's job.

Be aware, though, that vaping may be more perilous to your health than you've led yourself to believe.

(c)2019 Chicago Tribune



'I swallowed my engagement ring in my sleep'

So, in case you missed it, I swallowed my engagement ring in my sleep on Tuesday night."

That was how San Diegan Jenna Evans, 29, began her Sept. 12 Facebook post.

She proceeded to give details about a vivid dream involving a high-speed train, bad guys in pursuit, and her fiance urging her to swallow her diamond engagement ring to keep it safe. So she took it off her finger and gulped it down—in her sleep.

Probably few Americans, or Europeans, for that matter, missed Evans' story. Maybe space station astronauts and researchers working in the Arctic remained unaware. It was picked up on local media plus CNN, NBC News, the Today Show, CBS News, USA Today, even BBC and numerous tabloids across the pond.

Her revelation was broadcast on "Inside Edition." But, of course.

She was interviewed by three radio stations in New Zealand (after all, "The Lord of the Rings" was filmed there) and contacted by Yahoo Lifestyle of Australia. One woman informed Evans she read the hard-to-swallow story while having coffee in Hong Kong.

Evans, an IT specialist, has had little chance to sleep, let alone dream, since her saga hit the news this past weekend.

Within five days, her Sept. 12 Facebook post had attracted 117,000 likes, 68,000 shares and 42,000 comments.

She has read many of them. "Amazingly, a lot of people said, 'I did something very similar,'" Evans said.

About 15 attested to having accidentally swallowed AirPods or foam rubber ear plugs. Some talked about dreams of eating a marshmallow or popcorn. One woman swallowed a household cleaning liquid because she inadvertently left the bottle on her nightstand, awoke thirsty and groggily downed it.

Several women told Evans they had swallowed earrings. Others related having dreams that their husbands made them angry and they'd taken off their rings and thrown them across the room in their sleep, Evans said.

Her Facebook entry recounts her visit to urgent care, the X-rays that clearly show her ring mid-torso, the medical procedure by Sharp Rees-Stealy gastroenterologist Andrew Su to remove it, and her post-operative celebration with her fiance. Famished, she headed right to In-n-Out Burger (no pun intended) despite her doctor's suggested menu of soup, yogurt and light fare.

While her platinum ring with about 2.4 carats of diamonds emerged from the endoscopy procedure not so shiny, Evans' humor has sparkled throughout.

She was surprised by the media attention. "I would have

By DIANE BELL
The San Diego Union-Tribune



thought there were more important things happening in the world than this," said Evans. But she's happy about the light-hearted nature of her story, in which she pokes fun at herself and makes people chuckle. "I'm not trying to change the world. I'm not trying to make a statement. It makes me feel good to make other people laugh."

Well, not all people. She has gotten unsolicited advice about her diet, snarky analyses of her X-ray photos, orders to see a dream analyst and condemnations of her stupidity and materialism. The hurtful, judgmental responses were not to her Facebook saga, she said, but rather to news coverage.

"My guess is news posts don't provide as much context," Evans theorized. "It sounds like a stupid thing to do if you don't read about it in context. You have to see the humor in it."

Apparently major media agree because they are seeking her out. ABC's "Good Morning America" flew Evans and her fiance, Bob Howell, and his two kids to New York to be on Thursday's GMA3 edition with Strahan, Sara and Keke. Fox's "America's Newsroom" also has contacted her.

As for her fiance, Evans said, "He's a trooper. He's really encouraging." She sought his approval before doing any news interviews.

"If I had known it was going to go viral, I don't think I would have shared it publicly," she said in retrospect. "I know people on the Internet can be cruel. It's hard to take such criticism from people." In fact, she says if she were to do it over, she would limit Facebook shares to her friends—with one exception, that is. If Ellen DeGeneres called, it would be worth enduring the public humiliation just to meet her idol.

Evans no longer worries about swallowing her ring because she isn't wearing it to bed any more.

Turns out, there was some useful counsel from those givers of free advice, after all. Sleeping while wearing a ring can result in a scratched cornea, and its prongs can snag on the bed sheet and loosen.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Get rid of nuclear weapons

By OLIVIA ALPERSTEIN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Sept. 26 is International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, a day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to one of its oldest goals: achieving global nuclear disarmament. It is also the original founding mission of my organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Nuclear weapons make us less, not more, safe. Since their existence, they've posed one of the gravest threats to public health and human survival. According to U.N. estimates, 14,500 nuclear weapons remain. That's enough to completely destroy the Earth.

Very few people want a nuclear war to actually occur. We all have a vested interest in preventing one. No nation on Earth would be adequately prepared to address the mass health emergency and humanitarian crisis that would result.

We have come very close to nuclear war in the past. On Sept. 26, 1983, Soviet military officer Stanislav Petrov made a split-second decision. He deemed an apparent missile attack from the United States to be an error, refusing to trigger a counterattack and thus averting a potential nuclear war. If Petrov hadn't made that personal judgment, we might not even be here to advocate for a world free of nuclear weapons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear CNMI Board of Education

Educators are organizing. We are creating a network to share concerns and work toward social action if and when necessary, to ensure we are doing everything within our power to do right by our students. We are committed to sharing with the rest of our beautiful island community the deplorable conditions facing our schools and our kids.

We find that once educated on the issues, parents and community members are usually appalled by the situation and feel as passionate as we are about doing what is right by our students and educators.

Among our chief concerns are:

1) The central government owes PSS a lot of money, and no legal action is being taken to guarantee it gets paid, even though students and teachers are suffering greatly because of it.

2) We need policies to ensure adequate funding for PSS. The government's financial crisis this year hit PSS the hardest—and there is nothing preventing it from happening again in the future. We need you to specifically work with legislators and the administration to make laws and identify stable revenue sources to support and protect public education.

We are afraid you would rather "wait and see" to avoid

Facts of 25% guaranteed to PSS

House Legislative Initiative 18-12 was introduced by Rep. Roman C. Benavente and Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and amended Article XV Section of the NMI Constitution to guarantee the Public School System an annual budget of no less than 25 percent of the general revenues of the Commonwealth. The budgetary appropriation (for PSS) may not be appropriated for other purposes.

House Legislative Initiative 18-12 was voted on by the NMI voters (people) on Nov. 4, 2014, over four years ago.

As such, the NMI Constitution guarantees 25% of the general revenue of the Commonwealth to PSS.

Reps. Benavente and Deleon Guerrero introduced HLI 18-12 because they believed in the importance of education of our children. Today, these two representatives are still in the Legislature and are members of the majority in the House of Representatives, but they are no longer fighting for the 25% of the general revenues for the Public School System. Why is the change of heart? Why are they not fighting for the very legislative initiative that they authored and was approved and

While it's difficult to predict for certain what a nuclear war would mean for each nation, scientific and medical studies paint a grim picture. National Geographic recently analyzed the impact of a long-lasting wildfire cloud in 2017 to get a sense of what the smoke and soot from a nuclear war might look like. The results confirmed the physics involved in a global nuclear winter. According to analysts, nuclear winter could mean noon-time darkness, plummeting global temperatures and the end of life on the planet.

Right now, the risk of nuclear war is the greatest it has been since the height of the Cold War. Decades later, we're still playing a high-cost game of chicken with Russia and other nuclear-armed states. And once again, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock is set at just two minutes to midnight, the closest it's ever been to a nuclear apocalypse.

We've ushered in a new nuclear arms race, with President Trump announcing his intention to "out-innovate" other nuclear-armed nations and withdrawing from critical international arms control treaties.

On Aug. 2, the United States officially withdrew from the landmark 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty between Russia and the United States, which prohibited an entire class of nuclear missiles while providing procedures to ensure compliance and verify arms reduction. It led to the elimination of

more than 2,600 intermediate-range missiles, bringing tangible progress in stabilization and disarmament efforts between the two countries.

The United States has also withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, aka the Iran Deal, another crucial international arms control agreement. The New START Treaty, a strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and Russia that provides crucially important verification protocols, is also under threat of U.S. withdrawal.

But there has also been critical progress to address the nuclear weapons threat. The historic U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, known as the nuclear ban treaty, was approved by 122 nations in 2017. To date, 70 nations have signed the treaty, and 26 have ratified it. It will enter into force once 50 nations have ratified it.

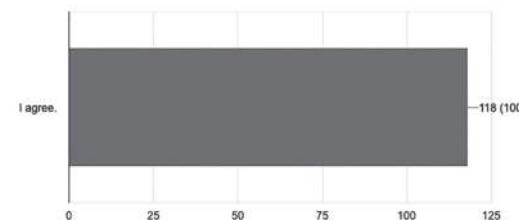
Sept. 26 is International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Let's make this the year when we finally resolve to abolish nuclear weapons for good.

Olivia Alperstein is the media relations manager for Physicians for Social Responsibility, www.psr.org. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.



I believe that clear harm is being done to the students on a daily basis, in the forms of: lack of resources and opportunities, unsafe campuses, poor learning conditions, distressed teachers and staff, half day sessions and "temporary" campuses made of canvas.

118 responses



burning political bridges, even though we keep sharing with you the harm being done to the students in our care, and to the teachers, administrators, and staff of the school system you represent.

We do not view you, the board, as the "enemy." In fact, we hope to fight for you, as we know you will garner even more power and perhaps willingness to act if you see the sheer numbers of support you would have. I implore you, if you are not already willing to use the power available to you to fight for the money due and for policies to ensure stable, adequate, and sustainable funding for PSS in the future, please become

mandated by the NMI people?

The Public School System is in the state of meltdown because of the lack of funding, yet no one from the Torre administration (the governor especially) is stepping forward with an explanation.

Not giving PSS the 25% is a blatant violation of the NMI Constitution, yet what is our elected attorney general, who is independent of the administration and supposedly non-political, doing to enforce this violation? Where is the public auditor? The people of NMI demand an explanation and demand action. No one is above the law!

Why is the PSS Board of Education silent on the 25%? When are the parents, students, teachers, and administration going to rise up to take a stand?

Even with the financial crisis of our local government and its inability to remit the whole budget due to PSS, this does not give them the right to violate the law of the land.

Jack Muñá
Koblerville, Saipan

willing. I believe the unfolding of actions and the growth of our network over the next two weeks will convince you that this is what the majority seeks.

We know that if nothing is done, the outcome will be more cuts and loss of personnel. This means less highly effective educators, less quality programs for students, and less safe campuses for students and educators alike. We beg you; stop cutting and stop the damage here and now.

Finally, allow me to address all the big-hearted educators in the CNMI, public or private, teacher or counselor, bus driver or central office employee, administrator or maintenance staff: Please join CNMI-ED as a network of people with firsthand knowledge of what we would really need to put students first in the CNMI. We have no union, association, or group formed to voice our perspectives. We have this network, which has already reached over 100 contacts by only word of mouth in a single week. Let's make it 500 by tomorrow. Scan the QR code or follow the link at the bottom of this article.

In solidarity and with kind regards,

Alex Olympio Borja
CNMI-Ed Representative
#iStandWithEducation

Join here: <http://bit.do/CNMIED>
Reach out to us here: cnmieducators@gmail.com

Downright scary

Fox News recently took their poster boy, President Trump, to task for lying about Hurricane Dorian, Russian meddling, crowd sizes, the Wall, etc. Add cheating on his wives, affairs with shady ladies, reporting taxes, the NRA, avoiding the draft, etc. You now have a broader picture of what sort of person our president is. Oh, and throw in his outrageous statements about undocumented Bahamians not welcome in the U.S. (knowing full well that most of them lost everything) and that makes them "very bad people." You know, murderers, rapists, just like the Mexicans! The man is heartless and uncaring except about himself and no one else. His simplistic (and often foul-mouthed) views of domestic and foreign issues are downright scary but he's discovered that the use of a Sharpie can cure just about anything. Impeachment long past due! Remember this post when you go to vote in the 2020 elections.

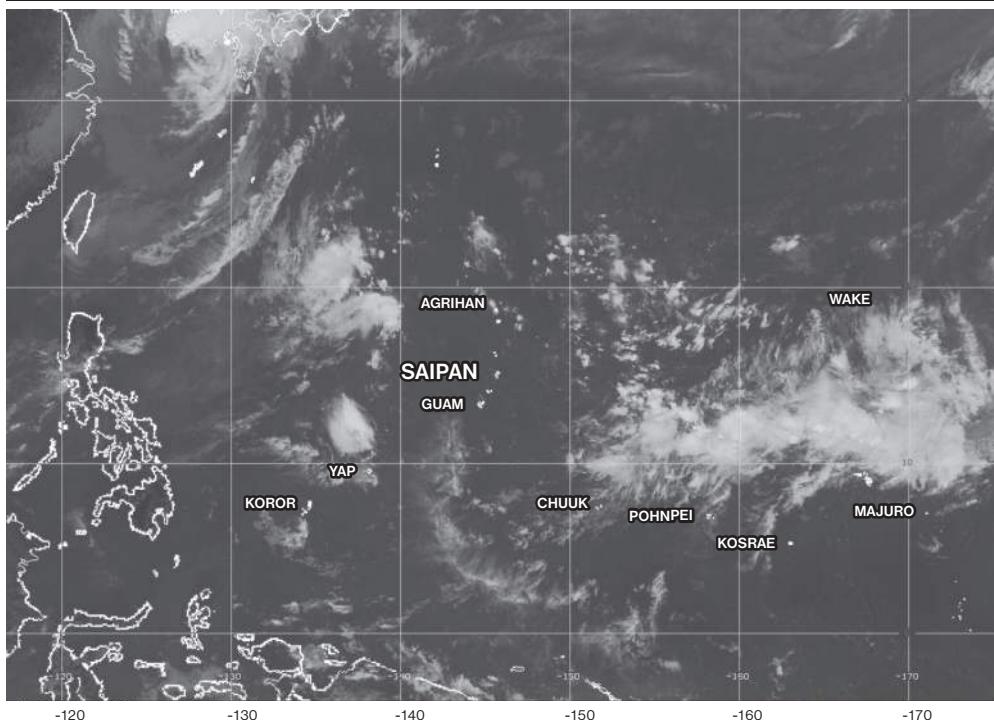
Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	78°	88°	78°	88°
78°	78°	78°	78°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light southerly winds and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning. A relatively dry weather pattern will persist through much of the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 57°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 77°
London	Rain	64° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	84° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Paris	Showers	70° / 63°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°
Rome	Thunderstorm	79° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	73° / 60°
Seoul	Sunny	77° / 57°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	89° / 67°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.63
8:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.11
4:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
9:19 PM	LOW TIDE	1.27

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:09 AM	1:30 PM	-
Tuesday	1:07 AM	2:28 PM	-
Wednesday	2:08 AM	3:23 PM	-
Thursday	3:11 AM	4:17 PM	-
Friday	4:14 AM	5:08 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:57am Daily				UA1747:30am 8:07am Daily			
UA105 6:25pm 7:05pm 2, 4				UA104 4:50pm 5:31pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
BC802 4:45pm 7:30pm Sep 20 to 22				BC801 10:00am 2:40pm Sep 20 to 22			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:30am 6:30am 4				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 3			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:10pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:00pm 12:35am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1			
7C3403 4:45am 8:35am 1, 2, 3, 5, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C3403 5:00am 8:30am 4				OZ625 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 5:00am 8:50am 6				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7			
7C3401 4:10pm 7:45pm 4, 7				7C3404 10:40pm 4:10am+1 3, 5			
7C3401 4:10pm 8:10pm 1, 2, 3, 5, 6							
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396 7:30am 12:05pm 1				JD395 8:05am 3:30pm 4			
JD396 4:50pm 7:55pm 4				JD395 8:50pm 5:00am+1 7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN			

Saipan fourth-graders check out the American Memorial Park

The 2019-2020 school year marks the fifth year that the American Memorial Park and its partner, Pacific Historic Parks, have been awarded a field trip grant from the National Park Foundation to fund the "Every Kid Outdoors" program.

It encourages fourth graders to explore, learn and recreate in spectacular settings, including national parks, wildlife refuges, marine sanctuaries, and forests.

"There is so much to discover at American Memorial Park," said superintendent Barbara Alberti. "Visits on class trips to experience our island's World War II history will provide lifelong memories and learning."

"Every Kid Outdoors" is a three-step program that targets Saipan's fourth graders. First, park rangers and Pacific Historic Parks' education team visit fourth graders at their school to introduce the program, and the significance of the American Memorial Park and the National Park Service. Following the school vis-



\$178M contract awarded for work on Guam base housing

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM— Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded Friday a \$178 million firm-fixed price contract to Black Construction Corp. of Barrigada, Guam, for the replacement of Andersen Housing Phases I, II and III at Naval Support Activity Andersen in Guam.

The work to be performed includes the construction of duplex buildings of reinforced concrete and/or pre-cast reinforced concrete typhoon shelter/housing structures. The new duplex buildings replace an equivalent number of existing duplexes. The new housing units are to be designed vent-less and using hot humid design principles that apply to the Guam environment. These housing unit structures are to be built with reinforced concrete foundations, concrete floors, concrete walls, and concrete sloped roofs designed to withstand Guam's frequent typhoons.

Work will be performed in Yigo, Guam with an expected completion date of June 2022. The contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website with five proposals received. (USN)

it, students are invited to visit the park and engage in interactive and hands-on learning. Students learn about the Battle of Saipan, participate in ranger-led guided tours exploring the park and engage in bird watching, and explore park grounds. Upon completion of the fieldtrip, students participate in a reflection activity sharing their experiences.

"For the last couple of years, we have been able to bring every fourth-grade classroom in the Public School System on Saipan to the park," said Jovannalyn Mafnas, Pacific Historic Parks education specialist. "We also travel to Tinian and Rota to bring the park and learning to fourth grad-

ers, highlighting the historical and cultural sites that makes each island in the CNMI unique. We are thrilled to continue the Every Kid Outdoors program and look forward to bringing this year's new batch of fourth graders on an exciting learning adventure."

In addition to a field trip to American Memorial Park all fourth graders, along with their families, are provided free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas for the year. To obtain the free pass, fourth grade students visit the Every Kid Outdoors website and participate in a short educational activity. The free voucher is valid between Sept. 1, 2019, and Aug. 31, 2020. The Every Kid Outdoors

Program was established by Congress in 2019. It replaces the Every Kid in a Park Program which was launched in 2015. It is an interagency collaboration between the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S Forest Service.

For teachers interested in bringing their fourth grade students to the park this year, contact ranger Renee Manibusan at reneemannibusan@nps.gov or Natalie Kaneshi at nkaneshi@pacifichistoricparks.org or call 234-7207 x 2020. (PR)

Fourth graders meet World War II veterans during their visit to the American Memorial Park.



Fourth-graders look for birds during their field trip to the American Memorial Park.

Educational tourism expands in the Marianas

Building on the success of student cultural exchange tours to the Marianas started over two decades ago, the Marianas Visitors Authority is seeing growing interest in the travel trend from the new market of China.

Most recently, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo attended a completion ceremony for 46 students from Korea who have been studying at Northern Marianas International School for several weeks this summer. The MVA attends annual seminars in Japan to entice schools to plan student trips to the Marianas in Japan and provides other support to visiting student groups.

"This is a strong interest in our source markets to give students an opportunity to learn English, and the Marianas has a number of tour agents who arrange for students to



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo congratulates Korea students on Aug. 16, 2019, at Northern Marianas International School on their completion of an English study tour in the Marianas. Also pictured is MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim, right.

study English for as short as a few days to several months," said Iakopo. "Our proximity to Korea, China, and Japan and the ease and low cost of travelling to the Marianas under visa-free or parole status make this an attractive education destination for students and their families. Also, our friendly schools and people, beautiful ocean, fresh air, and some optional activities arranged by the agents are all added bonuses."

Many of the groups involving longer-term study work with private schools. Student groups visits from China has also grown in the last couple years. This year, Century Tours has also partnered with Northern Marianas College and organizations in Saipan and Tinian to further promote educational tourism. (PR)

International Coastal Cleanup



Members of the Kagman High School National Honor Society pick up trash at the Marine Beach last Saturday as their participation in the International Coastal Cleanup. Thomas Benavente, president of the KHS chapter, said their goal was to help reduce ocean pollution on Saipan and within the Kagman community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan volunteers spend the morning of Sept. 21 cleaning up the island's coasts of debris, trash, and micro-plastics as the CNMI community joins the world in the celebration of this year's International Coastal Cleanup.

IVA MAURIN

Chief Taga festival to highlight Chamorro culture

The 2nd Chief Taga Day Festival on Oct. 1-6, 2019, in the Marianas will be highlighted by several presentations on the history and legend of indigenous Chamorro chief Taga.

"Gineptin Ha'ānen Taga" (Chief Taga Day Festival) will be held on the island of Tinian, recorded as the place where Taga last lived and was buried.

The festival's official opening ceremony will be held on Oct. 4, 2019, at 6pm. However, historic presentations will begin Oct. 1, 2019, at Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, and Tinian Public Library. Cultural practitioner Frank Rebon will present on historic dance, Rufina Mendiola will share stories about Taga, and historian Anthony Ramirez will present on the ancient Chamorro stone pillars called "latte." In addition, a Chamorro "sakman" (sailing canoe) will arrive from Saipan on Oct. 3 at the fiesta grounds, and a "sakman" re-enactment will be held on Oct. 5.

Other activities will include cultural demonstrations, food demonstrations, and live entertainment, and the events will close with an official ceremony on Oct. 6. Scheduled



MVA
Indigenous Chamorro mythology marks the House of Taga on the island of Tinian as the home of the legendary Chamorro chief. Chief Taga Day Festival will be held on Oct. 1-6, 2019, on Tinian.

Chamorro structures.

"Tinian's 2nd Annual Gineptin Ha'ānen Taga" is set to take place around Kammer Beach, Fiesta Grounds, and Taga' House," said Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan. "This year, our Bendision Saina will be a collaboration of various Guma' Bailan Kotura from Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. I would like to invite our families, friends, and off-island guests, all our Tāotāo Marianas (Marianas people) to experience and enjoy our Chamorro traditions like weaving, jewelry-making, song and dance, and food demonstrations."

The event is sponsored in part by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Chief Taga is one of the most recognizable figures in Marianas history and mythology. In Spanish written records,

Taga was recorded as aiding shipwrecked sailors off the reef near Tinian in the 1600s. In Chamorro mythology, Taga was known to possess superhuman strength, uprooting a coconut tree as a young child to catch a coconut crab and leaping from Rota to Tinian.

Accommodations are available at the Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Fleming Hotel, Lori-lyn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Green Field Lion House, the newly opened Marpo Valley Inn, and The Cabin. Camping is also allowed at Kammer Beach, where bathrooms, outdoor showers, barbecue pits, and pavilions are also available for use. Activities include lectures, storytelling, and cultural demonstrations are planned for the week.

For more information, contact Chief Taga Day Festival committee chair Joseph San Nicolas of the Tinian Mayor's Office at 1 (670) 433-1802 or email joesntiq@gmail.com, the 17th Municipal Council at 1 (670) 433-3470, or MVA field office supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1 (670) 433-9365. (MVA)

Tinian school's JROTC battalion takes part in Field of Heroes ceremony

our first responders."

The island's elected leaders, both from the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council, joined Aldan and Tan in laying wreaths at the Veterans Memorial Park.

A team from DPS-Saipan did the 21-gun salute. Taps was then played, followed by the simultaneous water salute and a sounding of the one-minute siren.

To close off the ceremony, Capt. (ret.) Joseph Santos, the senior army instructor of the Tinian JROTC Stallion Battalion, related the inspiring story of Patrick Tilma, who gave up a \$3.6 million contract with the National Football League Arizona Cardinals to enlist as an Army ranger. He served in Iraq, but was killed in Afghanistan.

"Never forget. There were 2,977 people who were killed that morning. Their only crime was going to work. Never forget," Santos said. (PR)

get. There were 342 firefighters and 72 law enforcement officers who died that day. They didn't run away, they ran to the destruction. They gave up their lives helping others. Never forget. Some people in Congress now are trying to get us to forget. They say 'some people did something'. Shame on them. That something was a destruction and a murder of 2,977 people. Who did it? It was Islamic terrorists. We should not be afraid to call them what they are. Never forget. 9/11 is our generation's Pearl Harbor. When Pearl Harbor happened, America wasn't ready. When 9/11 happened, we were not ready. Let us never forget. . . . If we forget, then Patrick Tilman's sacrifice will be wasted, those firefighters and law enforcement's sacrifice will be wasted. Ladies and gentlemen, let us *Never Forget*," Santos said. (PR)

demonstrators are: from Tinian, jewelry makers Banidosu-Matthew Cruz Masga and Peter Palacios, Jr., coconut frond weaver Jose M. San Nicolas, coconut oil maker Magdalena San Nicolas, "talaya" (throw net) fisherman Peter Palacios; from Saipan, Chamorro medicine group Inetnun Amot yan Kutturan Natibu; from Rota, apprentice wood carver Richard Songsong Manglona and slingstone practitioner Lino Rosario; and from Guam, master body ornamentation craftswoman Julie "Jill" Be-

navente, master blacksmith Francisco Cruz Lizama, master bone carver Greg Techaira Pangelinan, master shrimp trap maker Rosita Yoshia San Nicolas, assistant shrimp trap maker Joseph Kenneth Yoshiida San Nicolas, master storyboard/Guam seal/clock carver Tanya Beth Smau Taitano, and master "ift" carver Robert Philip Taitano, Jr.

Culinary demonstrations of various Chamorro dishes will be conducted from Thursday through Saturday from 4pm to 6pm at Timian Festival

grounds. On Saturday, children's games will be held from 10am to 12pm, and games for adults will be held from 2pm to 4pm. The closing ceremony will be held at the House of Taga at 6pm.

The House of Taga is a landmark on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and the site of the largest standing limestone latte stones in the Marianas. Latte stones served as support pillars for ancient

Guam helps with training of Tinian dog control program

GUAM—Employees of the Tinian Animal Control Program learned animal control and sheltering techniques from Guam Animals In Need and the Guam Department of Agriculture last week.

Michael Borja, dog control manager of the Office of the Tinian Mayor, and one recruit, Jeffrey Cruz, spent last week in Guam for hands-on training at the GAIN animal shelter and with Guam's animal control officers. They assisted Guam's Animal Control unit on various calls throughout the community, and experienced the daily tasks and unique issues that come with the position.

For the rest of their time in Guam, the Tinian team worked at the GAIN shelter alongside GAIN staff, assisting with daily shelter chores, and learning animal handling skills, health and temperament assessments, and adoption processes. They also met with one of GAIN's volunteer veterinarians to discuss common animal illnesses, specific signs to look for to determine an animal's health, and what next steps are needed depending on the outcome.

"GAIN, the Department of Agriculture, and the Tinian Animal Control Program are excited about this opportunity to share information and experiences between our



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Borja, dog control manager of the Office of the Tinian Mayor, and Jeffrey Cruz get hands-on training at the Guam Animals In Need animal shelter and with Guam's animal control officers last week.

fellow islands in an effort to provide better lives for all of our islands' animals," said GAIN executive director Alison Hadley.

Borja contacted Hadley last month, with the hope that GAIN and the Department of Agriculture could provide additional training for his new hires.

"When GAIN went to the CNMI after [Super] Typhoon Yutu to assist in their recovery, we worked closely with Mr. Borja and his crew. They are a dedicated and hard-working team. The CNMI, just like Guam, is doing all they can to help with ani-

mal overpopulation, animal homelessness, and medical assistance

with what resources they have," said Hadley. "There was no hesitation on my part to offer them training in order to help their program move forward."

Department of Agriculture director Chelsea Muñoz Brecht said, "We're happy to help our sister community in efforts to control the stray dog population. This is a serious animal welfare and public health issue that's getting worse on our islands. We're stronger when helping each other." said. (PR)

In his opening remarks, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan gave thanks to Tan Holdings, Tania Mendiola, the Tinian Mayor's Office staff, Tinian JROTC, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and to everyone who supported the event despite the weather.

The guest speaker for the ceremony, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, said the event is also fitting occasion to "pay tribute and remind everyone to say 'thank you' and appreciate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Battalion commander cadet Lt. Col. Anne Sanchez, left, and command Sgt. Maj. Julia Biton, right, join the rest of the Stallion Battalion in parade rest at the Veterans Memorial Park last Sept. 18 for the Field of Heroes: We Will Never Forget ceremony.

Business

Salut shutters down to make way for coffee shop

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Filipino restaurant Salut along Beach Road in Garapan has closed down but a specialty coffee shop franchise that is slowly gaining a following in the Philippines will soon open in its place.

Leo Legaspi, a co-owner of Salut, said they effectively shuttered down Salut last August. Among the factors cited for the closure was weakening sales but he didn't elaborate.

To replace it, Legaspi said they plan to have a grand opening for Daniel's Coffee Shop in November this year.

He said Saipan would be Daniel's Coffee Shop's first overseas location and management is excited to welcome the franchise to the island.

The coffee shop is named after its owner, Daniel Razon, who is a veteran broadcaster and CEO of Philippine-based multi-media company Breakthrough and Milestones Productions International.

It pioneered the concept of a coffee shop in a television studio setup in the country and specializes in cappuccino (renamed Danpuccino), hot beverages, fruit sodas, pastries, and cakes.

According to Filipino life-style blogger Rodel Flordeliz, there are five must-try drinks at Daniel's Coffee Shop: the Matcha Danpuccino, its Daniel's Summer Special Sago, its Cookies and Cream Danpuccino, the Taro Danpuccino,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Daniel's Coffee Shop's Ube Danpuccino with black pearls.

and Dan Dalandan.

As for the old site of Salut, Legaspi said they will totally renovate the building and part of the change is that their electronics gadget shop, PC Bargain, will also be prominently featured in the makeover.

Currently, PC Bargain, which retails cellular phones, laptops, tablet computers, and

other gadgets, is situated at the back of the old Salut establishment.

The original Salut restaurant opened in March 2017 in Chalan Kanoa across Kanoa Resort. It later moved to the old site of JHEMS and even expanded its offerings to include sushi and other Japanese dishes.

Walmart to quit selling e-cigarettes amid vaping backlash

NEW YORK (AP)—Walmart is getting out of the vaping business.

The nation's largest retailer said Friday that it will stop selling electronic cigarettes at its namesake stores and Sam's Clubs in the U.S. when it sells out its current inventory.

The nation's largest retailer said the move is due to "growing federal, state and local regulatory complexity" regarding vaping products. It also comes after several hundred people have mysteriously fallen ill after vaping, and eight have died.

Walmart's decision is the latest blow to the vaping industry, which has tried to position its products as healthier alternatives to smoking cigarettes, which are responsible for 480,000 deaths a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But the industry has come under increased scrutiny after the deaths and illnesses—along with a surge in under-

age vaping.

President Donald Trump has proposed a federal ban on flavored e-cigarettes and vaping products. Michigan banned the sale of flavored e-cigarettes this week. In June, San Francisco became the first major U.S. city to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes.

The bulk of e-cigarettes are sold through vape shops, which number about 115,000 nationwide, with additional outlets including drug stores, grocery stores and tobacco outlets, industry experts say.

E-cigarettes represent a very small part of Walmart's nicotine business, which also includes traditional cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and nicotine gum, so the impact on the retailer will be small.

But, it will be difficult for vaping companies to replace that access to shoppers given Walmart's size, said Greg Portell, global lead partner in the consumer and retail practice of

A.T. Kearney, a strategy and management consulting firm. Walmart operates more than 5,000 stores under its namesake and Sam's Club in the U.S.

"Walmart's size and scale makes their decisions about what products to carry meaningful for the impacted products," Portell said. "Vaping companies will be especially challenged given the lack of direct consumer access."

The Vapor Technology Association, a trade group, was quick to slam Walmart's move against vaping products while keeping cigarettes on its shelves.

"The fact that Walmart is reducing access for adult smokers to regulated vapor products while continuing to sell combustible cigarettes is irresponsible," Tony Abboud, executive director of the association, said in a statement.

"This will drive former adult smokers to purchase more cigarettes."

Nation

AFTER 3 MASS KILLINGS

US police assess rise in threat tips

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It had all the makings of a massacre. Six guns, including a Colt AR-15 rifle. About 1,000 rounds of ammunition. A bulletproof vest. And an angry Southern California man who threatened to kill his co-workers at a hotel and its guests.

But a concerned colleague intervened, alerting authorities who arrested 37-year-old Rodolfo Montoya, a cook at the Long Beach Marriott hotel, the next day and discovered the arsenal where he lived in a rundown motor home parked near industrial buildings.

In the weeks after three high-profile shootings in three states took the lives of more than two dozen people in one week in August, law enforcement authorities nationwide reported a spike in tips from concerned relatives, friends and co-workers about people who appear bent on carrying out the next mass shooting.

Some of those would-be shooters sent text messages to friends or posted on social media that they hoped to one-up previous mass shootings by killing more people.

The reasons for the increase in tips and heightened awareness of thwarted mass shootings vary, law enforcement officials said.

In some cases, it's the so-called "contagion effect" in which intense media coverage of mass shootings leads to more people seeking to become copycat killers. In other cases, it's a reflection of the general public being more aware of warning signs

when a friend or relative or co-worker is in an emotional crisis—and more willing to tip off police.

On average, the Federal Bureau of Investigation receives about 22,000 tips about potential threats of violence weekly. That volume increased by about 15,000 following the high-profile shootings during the first week of August in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio that killed 34 people and wounded nearly 70.

Mass shootings tend to plant the idea of carrying out a rampage or at least encourage the idea in potential mass shooters, each seeking notoriety or striving to "outdo" others with higher death tolls, said sociologist James Densley, a criminal justice professor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota, who studies mass shootings and the people who perpetrate them.

And the general public in turn becomes more aware of the possibility of mass shootings, heightening people's willingness to speak out if a friend, relative or co-worker appears to be in the midst of a crisis and plotting carnage, Densley said. In addition, the media focuses not only on the actual shootings, but also on those that are foiled.

But identifying and predicting who the next shooter will be is challenging for authorities, he said.

The reason? Mass shootings remain rare events and there's no one basic profile for the

attackers. The demographics of school shooters and their motivations are vastly different from someone who carries out carnage in a place of worship. The same holds true for those who carry out workplace shootings.

"When it comes to thinking about the profile of a mass shooter what our research is starting to uncover is there's not really one profile of a mass shooter," Densley said.

But the one common thread is that there are usually warning signs in the days and weeks leading up to the shootings, with many shooters taking to social media to vent outrage at whatever is troubling them.

Greg Shaffer, a retired FBI agent who now is a private security consultant specializing in active shooters and terrorism, said in an interview that the challenge for law enforcement is the juggling act of trying to balance the public's safety while not trampling on Americans' constitutional rights.

For example, at what point does a troubling social media post constitute an illegal threat versus simple venting that's protected by the First Amendment?

"The real rub is where do you draw the line between First, Second and Fourth Amendment rights?" he said. "We allow hate speech. It's freedom of speech. Where do you decide that it's no longer posturing and now it's a threat? ... At what point do you crash his pad and take away his guns? You can't be the thought police."

Sheriff: 2 dead, 8 wounded in South Carolina bar shooting

LANCASTER, S.C. (AP)—Two men were fatally shot early Saturday at a South Carolina sports bar and eight other people were wounded in the gunfire, authorities said. A suspect was being sought.

The shooting occurred in Lancaster, a community about 45 miles (72 kilometers) south of Charlotte, North Carolina. Coroner Karla Deese told news outlets that the dead have been identified as Henry Lee Colvin, 39, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, and Aaron Harris, 38, of Kershaw, South Carolina.

Authorities said four other people with injuries were airlifted to medical facilities for treatment after the shooting and that four others received treatment locally for non-critical injuries. An eleventh

person had minor injuries while falling in an attempt to flee the scene, officials said.

The shooting broke out at the Old Skool Sports Bar & Grill in Lancaster.

"I believe it was one person targeting another," Sheriff Barry Faile said at a news conference Saturday. "Unfortunately, we had 10 victims that got shot."

"This was a violent incident of huge magnitude that was witnessed by lots of people," he added. "The shooter or shooters are out there."

Investigators have identified a person of interest "but no one is in custody at this time," Faile told reporters. "We're doing all we can to locate this person."

Authorities had not named the person of interest by Sat-

urday afternoon.

The sheriff said authorities believe the apparent shooter had been having a disagreement for some months with one of the men who was fatally shot. Faile did not say which one. He also declined to disclose the type of firearm authorities believe was used in the shooting.

The sheriff said investigators do not yet know whether more than one person fired a weapon, but noted many people were inside the sports bar at the time.

"We need to talk with everybody who was at the club when the shooting happened, and I encourage those witnesses to contact us immediately so those responsible for these deaths and injuries can be taken into custody," Faile said.

Asia

PH confirms 2nd polio case

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine health officials on Friday confirmed a second case of polio in a 5-year-old child a day after declaring the country's first outbreak in nearly two decades, and announced plans for a massive immunization program.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said authorities confirmed the new case in a boy from Laguna province south of Manila after samples were found positive for the polio virus.

Health officials declared a new outbreak Thursday after confirming the disease in a 3-year-old girl in southern Lanao del Sur province. They said the polio virus has also been detected in sewage in Manila and in waterways in the southern Davao region, prompting plans for an immunization drive starting next month that is likely to include tens of thousands of children under age 5.

At least 95% of children that age need to be vaccinated to halt the spread of polio in the Philippines, according to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, which expressed deep concern over the disease's reemergence in the country and pledged to support the government in immunizing children and strengthening surveillance.

The boy afflicted with polio in Laguna experienced the on-



A baby gets an oral anti-polio vaccine during the launch of a campaign to end the resurgence of polio Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 at suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines.

set of paralysis late last month but has been discharged from a hospital, is able to walk and is being closely monitored for residual symptoms, health officials said.

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease which mainly afflicts young children. There is no known cure and polio can only be prevented by immunization, according to WHO.

"We continue to urge parents and caregivers of children below five years old, health workers, and local chief executives to take part in the synchronized polio vaccination to be scheduled in their communities," said Duque, who administered polio vaccine to a child a suburban Quezon city.

The government's immunization programs were marred in 2017 by a dengue fever vac-

cine made by French drugmaker Sanofi Pasteur which some Philippine officials linked to the deaths of at least three children. Duque and other Philippine health officials say many parents became scared about immunizations but they have worked to restore public trust in vaccines since then.

The government halted the dengue immunization drive after Sanofi said a study showed the vaccine may increase the risk of severe dengue infections. More than 830,000 children received the Dengvaxia vaccine under the campaign, which was launched in 2016 and halted in 2017.

Sanofi officials said the Dengvaxia vaccine was safe and would reduce dengue infections if the vaccination drive continued.

Hong Kong protesters, police face off in renewed clashes

HONG KONG (AP)—Protesters in Hong Kong threw gasoline bombs and police fired tear gas Saturday in renewed clashes over anti-government grievances.

Reporters saw at least one person arrested after violence erupted following an afternoon march by several thousand people in Tuen Mun, a district in the northwest of the Chinese territory.

Hong Kong is in the fourth month of sometimes violent protests that occur every weekend. They started with opposition to a proposed extradition law and have expanded to include demands for greater democracy.

Most protesters in Tuen Mun were peaceful but some threw gasoline bombs and bricks toward police who faced them down the street. They appeared to fall short of the police and there was no indication anyone was hit.

In the evening, protesters gathered at a shopping mall in another district, Yuen Long. Some threw gasoline bombs in the street. A government

statement said some were thrown toward police vehicles, endangering the officers inside, but gave no indication anyone was injured.

In both areas, police with riot helmets and shields responded by firing tear gas.

Elsewhere, scuffles were reported as government supporters heeded a call by a pro-Beijing member of the Hong Kong legislature to tear down protest posters at subway stations.

The events are an embarrassment for China's Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th anniversary in power. Hong Kong's government has canceled a fireworks display that day, citing concern for public safety.

The protesters in Tuen Mun marched about 2 kilometers (1 1/2 miles) from a playground to a government office building. Many were dressed in black and carried umbrellas, a symbol of their movement.

Protesters chanted, "Reclaim Hong Kong!" and "Revolution of our times!"

Most were peaceful but

some took down a Chinese flag from a pole outside a government office and set fire to it. Protesters also set up barricades to block traffic.

A government statement said protesters caused unspecified damage to the Tuen Mun light rail station and threw objects onto the tracks.

An organizer quoted by government broadcaster RTHK criticized police for sending armed anti-riot officers.

That will "only escalate tension between protesters and police," the organizer, Michael Mo, was quoted as saying.

Hong Kong's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, has agreed to withdraw the extradition bill. But protesters are pressing other demands, including an independent investigation of complaints about police violence during earlier demonstrations.

Protesters complain Beijing and Lam's government are eroding the "high degree of autonomy" and Western-style civil liberties promised to the former British colony when it was returned to China in 1997.

World

AS US SENDS MORE TROOPS

Iran vows to lead Gulf security

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president said Sunday his country should lead regional security in the strategic Persian Gulf and criticized the presence of foreign forces, as the country's nuclear deal with world powers collapses and the U.S. deployed more troops to boost security for its Arab allies.

The U.S. has said Iran is behind a series of attacks on the region's energy infrastructure, including a major drone-and-missile hit on Saudi Arabia's oil industry that shook global energy markets. Iran has denied the allegations and said any retaliatory strikes from the U.S. or Saudi Arabia will lead to "all-out war."

Speaking during a military parade, President Hassan Rouhani warned that the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf could cause problems for the world's "energy security."

He said that Iran extends its "hand of friendship and brotherhood" toward regional nations for overseeing se-

curity in the Persian Gulf and its narrowest point, the Strait of Hormuz, where one-fifth of global oil exports passes.

Along with boosting troop and equipment levels in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the U.S. is leading a maritime coalition, which includes the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Britain and Australia, to secure the area's waterways and vital oil trade routes.

The military parade marked the 39th anniversary of the eight-year war with Iraq that began when Saddam Hussein invaded Iran in 1980.

Similar parades were held in many major cities and towns across the country including the port city of Bandar Abbas near the Strait of Hormuz.

State TV showed scores of Iranian fast attack boats, as well as air defense and other military equipment. It also carried images of Iranian Revolutionary Guard naval forces rappelling down the side of a sailing ship.

The U.S. navy has often complained about Guard fast

boats and naval forces harassing shipping in the Gulf.

The chief of the powerful Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami, threatened to the "destruction of any aggressor" against Iran the day before.

Iran has long sought the evacuation of Western and U.S. forces from Arab Gulf countries, seeing it as a potential threat to the Persian nation.

Rouhani added that he will offer a regional peace plan during his visit to the U.N.

this week. Fears of a wider regional conflagration have grown, as tensions between Iran and the U.S. remain high over Tehran's failing 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Recently, Iran has broken the deal's limits on enrichment, uranium stockpiles and the use of advanced centrifuges, as it seeks to pressure Europe to offer it a way to sell its crude oil on the international market despite U.S. sanctions.

President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal over a year ago, and re-imposed crippling sanctions on Iran.

UK's Labour Party in turmoil as vote to oust deputy ditched

LONDON (AP)—Britain's major opposition Labour Party was trying to defuse a major row Saturday after a close ally of leader Jeremy Corbyn sought to oust his deputy, a move that prompted a furious outcry from many in the party.

While the attempt to dislodge Tom Watson was ditched after Corbyn intervened, the row laid bare divisions in the party at a time when it should be readying for an expected general election in the next few months against a Conservative government and prime minister racing to take Britain out of the European Union by the scheduled Oct. 31 Brexit date.

"We are supposed to be here this week to fight Boris Johnson, to outline our positive vision for the country at a general election, and I think it's been undermined on day one," Watson told cheering supporters as he arrived in the southern England city of Brighton for the start of Labour's annual conference.

Watson has espoused a number of viewpoints, particularly on Brexit, that angered many of Corbyn's left-wing supporters but appealed to the Labour Party's moderate wing.

Watson is a prominent supporter of holding a second Brexit referendum and urging Labour to campaign for Britain to remain in the EU in any future vote.

Corbyn and many of his allies have been reluctant to take that position, partly over fears it would alienate the Labour voters who backed Brexit in the June 2016 referendum.

Labour moved recently to support a second referendum on any Brexit deal and is due to debate its position further in the coming days at its conference.

On Friday, Jon Lansman, the founder of the pro-Corbyn grassroots Momentum group, proposed a motion for Watson's job to be scrapped.

Many lawmakers voiced opposition, and former Labour prime minister Tony Blair lambasted the move as "undemocratic, damaging and politically dangerous."

Before Labour's governing National Executive Committee was set to debate the motion Saturday, Corbyn sought to put a lid on the dispute by proposing that the body should instead carry out a review of the deputy leader's role.

Heading into conference, Corbyn tried to put a brave

face on the row and said he enjoyed working with Watson, who was elected deputy leader at the same time Corbyn took the helm of the Labour Party in September 2015.

"The NEC agreed this morning that we are going to consult on the future of diversifying the deputy leadership position to reflect the diversity of our society," Corbyn said.

Questioned by reporters, Corbyn refused to say when he first knew about the attempt to oust Watson, nor whether he had full confidence in his deputy.

Watson told BBC radio before the proposal was ditched that the attempt to oust him was akin to "a straight sectarian attack on a broad-church party" and he believed his position on Brexit was behind it.

He said the move against him came as a shock and that he was in a Chinese restaurant in Manchester Friday evening when he learned about it.

Lansman said in a tweet that he welcomed Corbyn's proposal for a review and added that the party needs "to make sure the deputy leader role is properly accountable to the membership while also uniting the party at conference."

Health & Wellness

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Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Ask DRE: No hocus pocus for a leaner physique

Six years ago, fresh out of college, I trained my first client. Since then I have worked and corresponded with well over a hundred people. And after being behind the curtain for that length of time, I realized one thing—like a moth to the flame, a lot of you are held captive by the current trends.

There is validity in some of them, but most are utterly absurd and illogical. In fact, it's probably my biggest gripe with the general public. The widespread belief you can hocus pocus your way to a leaner physique is wishful thinking.

Let me kindly escort you out of that dogma. There's no magic or wizardry involved. Why am I repeatedly beating this drum?

Because so many of you fall face first onto the pavement when you get hooked by every shiny object that comes your way.

I say this with a complete understanding that some, if not most, of you will likely sweep this under the rug. That's



Fat Loss Checklist

- Strength train 3-4 times per week
- Center your meals around protein and vegetables.
- Limit snacking and mitigate alcohol consumption
- Get plenty of good sleep and stay well hydrated
- Be honest with yourself. You are responsible for putting in the work. Nobody is going to do it for you
- BE PATIENT

okay. I have no right to mandate what you can and can't do. If you want to continue taking fat loss supplements with minimal exercise, and sip on endless mixed drinks over the weekend, that's your business.

Meh. What I do know. I'm just a P.E. teacher for adults.

Q: With the holidays quickly approaching, I'm going to seriously start getting in better shape. Any tips?

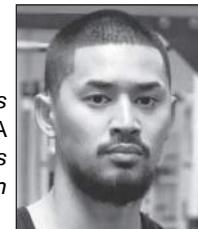
A: Hold yourself accountable and build sustainable habits. You're not going to change your body in the blink of an eye. It's going to take longer than you want. You will mess up, and you'll certainly get frustrated. That's the cost of doing business, folks. Those who continue to make progress while the rest are stuck in the yo-yo effect are attuned

to the ebbs and flows.

With that in mind, when you do mess up and you're upset about the number on the scale, don't overreact. Keep going and stay consistent.

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



Q: I don't get sore after my workouts. Should I push harder or consider switching my routine?

A: This is the hyperbole we get into with muscle soreness. We perceive acute sensations such as the burn or soreness as indicators of progress. Don't get me wrong, they feel pretty darn good. However, training to elicit a positive outcome is more deliberate than gassing yourself out and feeling exhausted. Virtually anybody can make you sore and hate life.

If you want to make steady improvements in your body composition, you have to increase your level of effort. In layman's terms, you can't just lift the same amount of weight over and over again. There's merit in other training modalities, but when you prioritize getting stronger and eat a sensible diet, good things happen. It's also important to note an effective strength training program isn't all that complicated.

Send your fitness-related questions to Dre by emailing him at www.dredelossantos.com. Due to the volume of emails he receives, he cannot respond to private email.

By CHRISTINA LEE KNAUSS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

The idea of working out in a crowded gym—stared at by strangers, surrounded by bright lights and noise—is not for everybody.

For many people, the ideal place for a workout is a quiet bike path, a curving neighborhood road, or their own den.

These are the runners, the walkers, the home-gym owners who actually use the equipment they've purchased for exercise, not for a spare clothes rack.

They relish the benefits, both physical and mental, of working out on their own. And experts say the solitary workout can be just as effective as a session in the gym.

Dawn Jordan has already discovered that.

The 41-year-old real estate agent used to belong to a gym when she lived in Virginia, but works out on her own now.

Jordan has converted one of the bedrooms in her house to a workout room. It houses a treadmill, a selection of hand weights, and a TV and stereo to go along with her daily sessions. Sometimes she works out along with a tae-bo video; on other days she hits the road for distance running.

"I like to work out on my own because a lot of gyms are meat markets," Jordan said. "People are just there to meet people. That can be good for networking, but that's not what I'm there for. I find that people are there just to socialize, instead of being serious about working out."

Larry Durstine sings the praises of solitary exercise, both in his personal and professional life. Durstine is the chairman of the Department of Exercise Science at the University of South Carolina. Long before he held



Some fitness buffs shun the gym for a more solitary workout

that job, though, Durstine had started running and exercising. Although he occasionally runs or works out with a partner, most of the time Durstine is on his own.

"My time running is my personal time, to gather my thoughts, to lose myself," Durstine said. "It's the way I relax. People ask how you can relax while you run, but it works for me. I end up feeling better about myself and better about life."

Durstine said those who prefer to work out on their own aren't antisocial.

Instead, they often prefer to concentrate on their own workout, go at their own pace, and focus on their own thoughts, without the distraction of others or having to wait for someone to catch up.

The solitary workout is a choice for some, and a necessity for others who might not have the time to go to a gym, or easy access to one.

Either way, there are plenty of ways to get and stay motivated to keep exercising on your own.

The first thing to do is work on personal motivation, according to Teresa Moore, an assistant professor and undergraduate coordinator for the graduate program in exercise science at the University of South Carolina.

"Your motivation needs to come from internal sources," Moore said. "It can be something as simple as deciding to improve your health, or wanting to look good in your clothes."

Moore suggests that people should blend things they already enjoy into a

solitary workout.

"Try to find music you like and listen to it while you workout, or put a TV in front of your cardio equipment and watch a show you like," she said. Moore said that some people enjoy combining their workout time with motivational tapes, or listening to inspirational tapes related to their religious faith.

"Eventually, many people actually get to the point where they look forward to their workout time," Moore said. "It's a time set aside to exercise, to listen to your favorite book or music. And you get to enjoy it so much that you feel guilty if you miss it."

Jordan finds that having her workout equipment at home is a motivation in itself.

"When you work out from home, it's not as easy to say no, I'm not going to do it today," Jordan said. "When you have to get into a car and go somewhere, it's easier to say you'll just do it tomorrow. At home, you don't have to think about it. I just walk up my stairs and the treadmill is there. You can't avoid it."

And the solitary exerciser can still have room for other people in her routine, even if they're not in the same room.

Moore suggests setting up a "buddy" system with a friend or neighbor.

"Sometimes it helps if you just get a phone call, someone asking you if you got your workout today and how things are going," Moore said. "It helps, even if you work out on your own, to be accountable for what you've accomplished."

People new to a workout routine often can benefit from initially starting out with a friend or neighbor, or sometimes having a trainer come to their home to teach proper form and technique, said Carla Guido, owner of Personally Fit, a personal training and fitness center.

Guido said the market today is chock-full of products for those who want to work out at home, ranging from the plethora of exercise videos to equipment. She especially suggests resistance bands, which can be looped around the upper and lower body and used for a variety of exercises.

Guido said the solitary exerciser also should get information about nutrition, and focus on making the daily workout as important as any other part of their schedule.

"The most important thing is that you schedule your routine like an appointment," Guido said. "Don't just say you're going to work out at some time during the day—schedule it. Look at it like any other appointment. You are just as important as your doctor's appointment."

Life & Style

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By CLAIRE PARKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAYEUX, France (AP)—Famously, Arya Stark always preferred her sword Needle to needlework. Still, even she would be impressed with the giant tapestry now on show in France that recounts the plot of “Game of Thrones” in glorious and, of course, gory and salacious detail.

With the award-winning saga about power strug-

gles in mythical Westeros poised for more success at the Emmy Awards on Sunday, the tapestry’s unveiling this month in the Normandy town of Bayeux could hardly be better-timed. The show’s 32 nominations broke a single-year record.

Fans who have flocked in their thousands to see the embroidered artwork are giving it a thumbs-up.

“It’s fantastic. You can see kind of the story, how it all

lays out,” Amanda Zides, visiting from a suburb of Boston, said as she pored over the tapestry this week. “They did a nice job—great color, great detail.”

At 87 meters (285 feet), the tapestry is longer than the width of a soccer pitch and longer than the famous 11th-century Bayeux Tapestry that recounts the Norman invasion of England in 1066. That tapestry served as an inspiration for the “Game of

Thrones” lookalike.

The work was commissioned by the tourism office of Northern Ireland, where HBO filmed many of the scenes. Irish officials hope the Bayeux exhibit will boost tourism to Northern Ireland. Its “Game of Thrones” sites are already a big draw, attracting 350,000 visitors in 2018 alone.

“We consider the Bayeux Tapestry as the grandmother of our ‘Game of Thrones’ tapestry,” said Séverine Lecart, director of marketing in France for Tourism Ireland.

Obvious parallels between the two tapestries include the embroidery styles, colors and structures. Both are divided into three segments, with their central storylines

running through the middle bordered by smaller panels displaying motifs like winged beasts or weaponry. The two works evoke similar themes of violent conquest and feudal loyalties.

The Bayeux Tapestry is thought to have been commissioned by William the Conqueror’s brother. It tells the story of William’s conquest of England with vivid scenes of battle and palace intrigue. It attracts nearly 400,000 visitors annually and Bayeux officials hope the “Game of Thrones” exhibit will grow that number.

The tapestry begins with fictional King Robert Baratheon visiting the Stark family in Winterfell and ends with the final scenes from the eighth and

last season. It took a 30-strong team of volunteer embroiderers in Northern Ireland nearly four months to stitch the tapestry in 2017, adding final scenes after “Games of Thrones” finished airing in May.

Like the often-racy show, the tapestry includes several sex scenes. But among visitors on Wednesday, scenes depicting Daenerys Targaryen with her dragons and Jaime Lannister getting his hand chopped off proved particularly popular.

“Amazingly well-presented,” said Geoffrey Vasse, visiting

from the Normandy city of Caen. “I’m a fan of the series of ‘Game of Thrones’ and if there is a tapestry just nearby, I wanted to come and see it.”

Watchdog says global oil consortium hurting South Sudan

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—The largest multinational oil consortium in South Sudan is “proactively participating in the destruction” of the country, the actor George Clooney and co-founder of The Sentry watchdog group told The Associated Press this week.

A new report released on Thursday by the Washington-based group that reports on links between corruption and mass atrocities says it found that Dar Petroleum provided direct support to deadly militias.

“And it has paid for government officials to live lavishly while the rest of the population suffers the consequences of a brutal civil war that has cost hundreds of thousands of lives,” Clooney said.

The report explores how

a variety of international individuals and businesses are linked to armed conflict, corruption and atrocities during the country’s five-year civil war that ended with a peace deal a year ago. The oil consortium is the most prominent example.

South Sudan is the most oil-dependent country in the world, and Dar Petroleum is one of the country’s most important entities. It is comprised of China’s state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation, Malaysia’s state-owned Petronas, Chinese state-owned Sinopec, the private Egyptian-based firm SSTO and South Sudan’s state-owned Nile Petroleum.

The report says the petroleum ministry requested 251 barrels of diesel to be delivered to military and militia forces in Upper Nile state in 2014 and 2015.

While most of the country’s oil rigs were shut down

A stitch in time: Tapestry immortalizes ‘Game of Thrones’

In this photo taken Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 Loic Jamin, Bayeux’s deputy mayor for tourism and museums, poses with the “Game of Thrones” tapestry during an interview with the Associated Press in Bayeux, Normandy, France. AP



Earthlings dwindle, music fading at Area 51 events in Nevada

HIKO, Nev. (AP)—Bands played to a dwindling crowd of Earthlings late Saturday at one remaining festival spawned by a “Storm Area 51” internet craze in the remote Nevada desert.

Lights were dark at another venue where promoters pulled the plug because of low attendance.

Little A’Le’Inn owner Connie West vowed that a music program topped by the Los Angeles band Wily Savage would continue until midnight, as scheduled, in the tiny town of Rachel.

But bands playing from a temporary stage faced few people beneath a sky full of stars at a dusty venue where authorities tallied a peak of about 3,000 attendees on Friday.

“Things are ramping down,” Lincoln County emergency services chief Eric Holt said as darkness fell and first responders from around the state began heading home.

“Area 51 Basecamp” was already dark, after pulling the

plug the morning after a Friday concert-and-vendors just that drew just 500 attendees in Hiko.

“We put on a safe event for the people that showed up,” promoter Keith Wright said. “It was a gamble financially. We lost.”

West, in Rachel, said she was sad to hear the Hiko festival didn’t succeed.

“This is the most fabulous time,” West said. “It’s been a great turnout, and it wasn’t the humanitarian disaster that everyone claimed it would be.”

Holt, who said resources had been mustered to handle up to 30,000 people, called the low turnout a “best-case” scenario for a county with 5,200 residents in an area the size of Massachusetts. The county dipped into a \$250,000 emergency fund to deal with an event that drew interested internet clicks from more than 2 million Facebook users.

Despite an initial suggestion that people rush the gates, festival organizers and authorities discouraged people from

entering the military base.

More than 1,000 people visited gates Thursday and Friday, and more made the trek on long dirt roads near Rachel on Saturday.

Officials reported six arrests overall, mostly for misdemeanor trespassing on base property, a \$1,000 fine. One man was arrested for disorderly conduct at a festival venue and one for public urination at a base gate.

In Nye County, west of Las Vegas, authorities reported no arrests after a total of about 200 people showed up early Friday at two remote gates to the once-secret Area 51 facility.

In Lincoln County, Sheriff Kerry Lee said about 20 people broke from among revelers early Saturday and “acted like they were going to storm, but stopped short.”

Holt said two people badly hurt Saturday in a rollover crash of a vehicle on a dry lake bed near Rachel were sent to hospitals in St. George, Utah, and Las Vegas, Holt said.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Friends” is getting old. Its fans have never been younger.

As the sitcom about six twentysomethings marks its 25th anniversary on Sunday, it has spawned a devoted youthful viewership, especially among tween and teen girls who weren’t yet born when it went off the air in 2004.

In an era when everyone assumed they would move on to YouTube and Instagram video, young girls have embraced the series and its old-fashioned, studio-audience, sitcom format, bingeing its 10 seasons on Netflix through their tablets and phones, wearing T-shirts with the show’s logo and constantly quoting catch-phrases.

“It is old but you can’t tell that much when you’re watching,” said 15-year-old Sammy Joyce of Long Beach, California. “It’s too funny to care about how old it is.”

Some first hear about the show from Generation X parents who watched the initial NBC run, but the show has caught on mostly via word-of-mouth between friends.

“My friends all really liked it. They were all really into it and they would always be quoting it so I decided to give it a try,” said 15-year-old Adelaide Driver of Taos, New Mexico. “I kind of immediately was super into it.”

Lucia Mozingo, 10, of Long Beach says she’s been spreading her love for the show “like a disease” among her grade-school classmates.

She and Sammy, who watches her after school, can mimic their way through entire episodes, sing every word to Phoebe’s song “Smelly Cat” and can do impressions of every major character and many minor ones.

The show has become almost a rite of passage in some circles, where their “Friends” phase is almost a coming of age.

For girls like Lucia, understanding the show’s adult-but-not-too-adult subject matter

can feel like a step into sophistication.

“My parents showed me the show ‘Friends’ when I was 8, and I didn’t really get it, so I wasn’t really into it.”

Then, trying it again at 10, it all clicked, and she understood why Ross and Rachel got together, and why they broke up, and why they got back together again.

“I just got it,” she said.

“Friends,” some fans said, is a piece of the past that allows them to fantasize about their future. They swoon at the notion of living in a big-city apartment with their best friend the way Courteney Cox’s Monica and Jennifer Anniston’s Rachel do, with two more friends across the hall like Matthew Perry’s Chandler and Matt Le-

Banc’s Joey.

“I would love to live across the hall from my best friends,” said 12-year-old Imogen Schwartz of Glendale, California. “When you watch it you wish you had a Rachel and a Chandler and a Joey and everyone else.”

The characters also have fledgling careers that the girls can see themselves aspiring to.

“My favorite moments are whenever they’re talking about their jobs: actor, musician, masseuse, fashion-person,” said 13-year-old Esme Goldman of Pasadena, California. “I think jobs are interesting.”

And they live and work in an idealized New York, a dream of some young fans.

“I want to live in New York. I want to pursue my dreams in

co-stars, newlyweds

NEW YORK (AP) —“Supergirl” co-stars and real-life newlyweds Melissa Benoist and Chris Wood will join performers Jane Lynch, Wayne Brady and Laurie Metcalf for a concert being livestreamed Saturday to benefit low-income migrants. The show will also feature Marcia Cross, Grant Gustin, Cheyenne Jackson, Rachel Bay Jones, Melissa Manchester, Eric McCormack, Caroline Rhea, Gina Torres, Liz Callaway, Yuri Sardarov and “Dancing with the Stars” dancers Pasha Pashkov and Daniella Karagach. The concert is set for 9 p.m. EDT at UCLA’s Royce Hall. It will be broadcast via Face-

New York,” Esme said, “even though their version of New York is completely unrealistic. I’m not going to have an apartment like that.”

Marta Kauffman, who along with David Crane created the show that premiered on Sept. 22, 1994, agreed that its aspirational qualities are a huge part of its appeal for younger viewers.

“For the characters themselves, this is that kind of time in their lives when their friends are their family, I think that’s incredibly aspirational,” Kauffman told The Associated Press. “Teenagers who imagine it are imagining that kind of life when they’re with their friends.”

Lisa Kudrow’s Phoebe, and her proudly eccentric persona, has special standing among

young-girl fans, who overwhelmingly name her as their favorite character.

“She’s different but she doesn’t really care,” Lucia said. “Like, she’s always trying to cleanse your aura, and like, she’ll make her own shoes with candy on them.”

“She’s kind of a little crazy,” Adelaide said. “She’s like a lot of the people here in Taos.”

Phoebe’s personality, with her strange folksy songs and odd observations, would make her a social-media star.

“Phoebe would be a very popular YouTuber,” Imogen said.

Most young fans also immerse themselves in “Friends” on social media. Its archetypal characters including David Schwimmer’s Ross and catch-phrases make it incredibly

meme-worthy, and many say they first decided to watch it after being prompted on Instagram or Snapchat.

Netflix, which paid a reported \$100 million to stream “Friends” through 2019, rarely releases streaming figures, and declined a request for them for this story, making it difficult to know how broad the trend truly is. There’s an abundance of anecdotal evidence—the number of T-shirts at malls and school campuses alone—that suggests it’s vast.

Other sitcoms, such as “The Office,” also have masses of surprisingly young viewers, but few are as old, or as traditional in format, as “Friends.”

Yet its age could also be an asset. While a current show might only offer a few short seasons to plow through, “Friends” has a decade’s worth, 236 episodes to binge on and return to repeatedly. That’s more time than some young girls have spent with most of their real-life friends. They feel like they really know the characters.

“You got to watch Chandler and Joey and Monica and Rachel and Phoebe and Ross all, like, throughout a decade go through ups and downs and everything between,” Imogen said.

And some may not even realize it’s old at first.

“When my daughter’s friends discovered ‘Friends’ they thought it was a period piece,” Kauffman said. “They thought it was a contemporary show set in the 90s.”

The days of “Friends” on Netflix are now numbered. WarnerMedia is moving the series to its own streaming platform, HBO Max, next year.

That has some young fans scrambling to gorge on episodes, unsure if their parents will spring for the new channel.

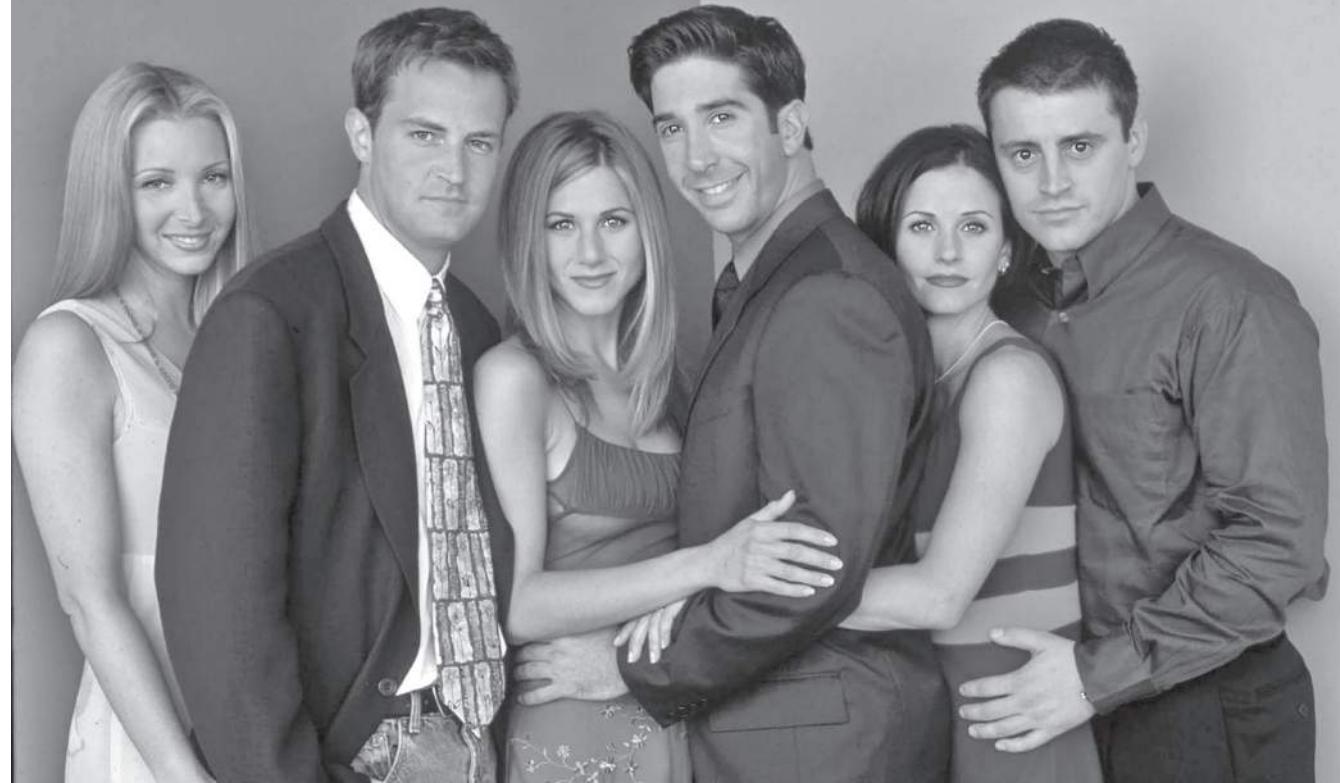
“Since they’re taking it off Netflix,” Imogen said, “I want to get in as much time watching ‘Friends’ as possible.”

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

2 Greta Thunberg books coming out in the United States

NEW YORK (AP) —Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg has two books coming out in the United States, including an English-language edition of her memoir. Penguin Press announced Thursday that it will release Thunberg’s memoir “Our House Is On Fire” and a collection of her speeches, “No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference,” that will include her upcoming address at the U.N. Climate Action Summit in New York. “No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference” is scheduled for November. Her memoir, co-written with her

25 years later, a new generation gets immersed in ‘Friends’



The cast of the NBC sitcom ‘Friends.’

NBC PHOTO

parents and sister, will be released next year. The 16-year-old Thunberg has quickly become an international force for urgent climate action. She has been in Washington for several days of rallies and lobbying efforts ahead of Friday’s planned global climate strike.

Book of letters by Che Guevara coming out in English in 2021

NEW YORK (AP) —A book of letters by Ernesto Che Guevara is coming out in English in fall 2021. “Letters 1947-67” will be released in the United States by Seven Stories, the publisher announced Thursday, and includes an introduction by daughter Aleida

Guevara. The Spanish edition was recently published in Cuba. The late revolutionary’s correspondence touched upon everything from politics to family. In a 1966 letter to his children, written the year before he was executed by U.S.-backed Bolivian forces, he promises to send a photo soon so his family will know what he looks like, “a little older and uglier.” He tells his son, Tatico, that imperialism still exists when he’s a man, they’ll fight it together. If it has been overthrown, they will “take a vacation on the moon.”

Benefit concert to feature “Supergirl”

If approved, the symphony could begin performing as early as next week. The newspaper reports details of the contract were not released Saturday, when the performers’ union and management reached the deal. A contract approval would put an end to a 13-week work stoppage. The 77 musicians have refused to rehearse or perform without a contract following a summer-long lockout they call illegal.

They filed a complaint earlier this month with the National Labor Relations Board alleging unfair labor practices. The newspaper reports performances could begin Friday at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

Holy anniversary! Displays of bat signal fete Batman at 80

NEW YORK (AP)—It's no joker. The night is lighting up Saturday around the world with the famous bat signal to mark a special anniversary for Batman.

Former Charlie Rose makeup artist sues, alleging harassment

NEW YORK (AP)—The former chief makeup artist at Charlie Rose's interview show is suing him, saying the disgraced television journalist ran a "toxic work environment" for women.

Gina Raggi said in her harassment lawsuit filed Thursday that she worked for 22 years for Rose and Bloomberg, the company where his Manhattan studio was located. She lost her job in 2017 after Rose was fired by PBS and CBS News for sexual misconduct.

Her lawsuit seeks unspecified damages "and equitable relief for the harm she has endured," it says.

Raggi charges that Rose treated his studio as a sexual hunting ground for attractive young women. She says he groped and pawed female staff members, stared at their

breasts, and dangled job prospects to wine and dine women.

"Far from being an advocate for their careers, Mr. Rose treated them as sexual targets, using his power and influence to serve his personal desires," Raggi says in the lawsuit.

His attorney, Jonathan Bach, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. But he told Variety that Rose denied the charges and would vigorously contest them. The lawsuit was inconsistent with friendly messages that Raggi had sent to Rose, he said.

Raggi said Rose would demean and humiliate women who rejected him and once swatted at her. Many women who were shaken by encounters by Rose would use her makeup room as a refuge, she said.

Julie Andrews to get AFI honor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The American Film Institute is honoring Julie Andrews with its Life Achievement Award.

The organization said Friday that Andrews will receive the award at the Gala Tribute on April 25 in Los Angeles. It will be broadcast on TNT.

Andrews' acting career has spanned several decades, winning an Academy Award in 1965 for her starring role in "Mary Poppins." She also starred in

"The Sound of Music" and "The Princess Diaries."

Andrews received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. She also won two Grammys through "Mary Poppins" and "Julie Andrews' Collection of Poems, Songs and Lullabies."

The 83-year-old actress will be the 48th recipient of the prestigious honor from the AFI, joining Mel Brooks, Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep and George Clooney. This year's honoree was Denzel Washington

Fan gatherings happened all over the world. But the most ambitious party plan was the illumination of the bat signal.

It started at Fed Square in Melbourne, Australia. The signal is also appearing in 13 other cities, including Tokyo,

Berlin, Rome, Paris, London, Montreal, Sao Paulo and Johannesburg.

It's lighting up at the Dom-

ino Sugar Refinery in New York City before making its final appearance at Los Angeles' City Hall.

J-Lo struts updated jungle dress at Versace

MILAN (AP)—Jennifer Lopez won Milan Fashion Week on Friday, wowing the crowd at Versace when she emerged wearing a version of the jungle dress that nearly broke the internet almost 20 years ago.

Building up to the big reveal, Donatella Versace announced from backstage a Google search for "Versace jungle dress," and a dome

ceiling above the circular runway filled with images of J-Lo wearing the 2000 Versace dress at the Grammys.

Then Versace intoned: "The REAL jungle dress," and Lopez appeared in an updated version of the iconic gown, which maintained the plunging neckline but in a sleeveless version and with a train that billowed below the open back.

Not a smart phone remained dormant as the fashion crowd jostled to catch video of the fashion ah-ha moment.

The original jungle dress made not only fashion history, but Google history. According to Versace's press notes, millions of people searched Google in an effort to see the dress, inspiring tech giant to create Google Images.

"The world had the same reaction: jaw-dropping," Versace said in show notes. "Today we live in a technological world, but back then, one event promoted the creation of a new tool that now has become part of our lives."

Highlights from the third day of Milan Fashion Week womenswear previews for Spring/Summer 2020:



MONUMENT REOPENS

First lady Melania Trump high-fives students from Amidon-Bowen Elementary School in Washington as she arrives at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to re-open the Washington Monument, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, in Washington. The monument has been closed to the public for renovations since August 2016. Trump cut the ribbon Thursday as the monument reopened to the public for the first time in three years. The 555-foot stone obelisk was closed in order to replace the aging elevator and upgrade security systems. Accompanied by a group of local fourth graders, Trump took the new high-speed elevator to the observation floor near the top, which offers a commanding 360-degree view of the entire District of Columbia. An August 2011 earthquake left cracks in the stones near the top of the obelisk. It reopened in 2014 but National Park Service officials were forced to close it again two years later after a series of elevator breakdowns. At the time of its completion in 1884, it was the tallest building in the world, but was soon overtaken by the Eiffel Tower in 1889. It remains the tallest building in Washington and, when open, averages about 500,000 visitors per year. AP

Recent divorcee is surprised by affair with younger man

DEAR ABBY: I never had sex unless I was in love and knew there was a strong possibility of a solid future. Well, I am 51 now and newly single. My divorce was final four months ago, and I am now living in a new state.

I joined one of those hookup sites, found someone and began having sex with him. I nearly backed out and panicked because his profile said he lived 30 minutes away from me, but he was at my house in 10 minutes (!) saying he was visiting a friend in my neighborhood.

He's well-educated, gorgeous, adorable, and I'm having the most amazing, mind-blowing sex of my life. The problem is, I'm falling in love, and he's only 33. I never thought I could go through with a hookup, but I did. I need to end this, but I don't know how.

TRYING TO END IT IN THE EAST

DEAR TRYING: When people are newly divorced, because the process is often stressful and depressing, they can go on a kind of high when it's final. At some point you WILL regain your equilibrium, and when you do, you will know how to end it.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 45 years has an older sister who is a nasty, narcissistic bully. She has treated my wife and our family

like dirt for years, yet my wife continues to tolerate it and refuses to hear of any negative comments about her sister from me.

Because of the way she has behaved, I do not want any contact with my sister-in-law. I am at a loss, though, as to how to keep the relationship from causing trouble in my marriage. Why do bullied people refuse to see their abusers for what they are?

DONE WITH IT IN MINNESOTA

DEAR DONE WITH IT: It's lack of self-esteem. Bullied people somehow think they deserve the ill treatment they are receiving. Your wife may come from a background where abuse was normal. If you prefer to avoid your sister-in-law, that is your privilege. However, as long as your wife accepts the status quo, nothing will change.

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine is a very nice person. He and his wife live in Pennsylvania. I live in New Jersey. He comes here, and I go there to where he lives.

Every time it's his turn to pay, he comes to lunch alone. Every time it is my turn, he brings along his wife. I don't feel right about it. He does offer extra money, which I'm really not comfortable accepting.

When it's his turn, he pays \$25, but when it is mine, the tab is usually \$40 to \$50 because there's an extra person involved.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Sometimes he takes care of the tip. Should I tell him I have things to do and can't go to lunch?

UNSURE UP NORTH

DEAR UNSURE: Because you enjoy his company, tell him that although you like his wife, you would feel more comfortable if when you have lunch together it's "just us guys." Either that, or suggest that from now on you each request separate checks.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Former	59	Tel.	16	"Life
1 Can material	43	Wheeled (out)	number	of Pi"	director	Springsteen, 70; Mary Kay Place, 72.
4 Lions' prides	45	Aloha State	add-on	Lee		
9 Wet dirt	47	Poetic tribute	20 Soon,	poetically		
12 Sprite	48	Copper head?	2 Under the weather	21 Boston — Orchestra		
13 Mary's sister on "Downton Abbey"	49	Smarty-pants	3 Cowboys' org.	22 Victor's cry		
14 Discoverer's call	54	Up to	23 Town crier's announcement	27 Sheepish remark		
15 Suddenly	55	Track	5 Rescued cat, e.g.	29 Out of the storm		
17 Junior	legend	16 Tel. number	6 French diarist	30 Uttered		
18 Wee bite	Moses	41 Former	Anais	32 Ancient portico		
19 Moors	56 Tic-tac-toe	43 Wheeled (out)	7 — Sketch (drawing toy)	34 Add for free		
21 Swiss psycholo- gists Jean	loser	45 Aloha State	8 Lusters	37 Added alcohol		
24 — Domini	57 Cardinal cap	47 Poetic tribute	9 Maximally	39 Topical antiseptic		
25 He gives a hoot	letters	48 Copper head?	10 "Oops!"	42 Brahman- ist		
26 Civil War soldier	Dominick	49 Smarty-pants	11 Puts on	44 Rent out		
28 Parlor pieces	Dominick	54 Up to	Solution time: 26 mins.	45 Toppers		
31 D.C. insiders	55 Track	55 Track		46 Slightly		
33 Nosh	legend	15 Suddenly		50 Possess		
35 "The Lion King" lion	Moses	17 Junior		51 Chopper		
36 Tizzies	56 Tic-tac-toe	18 Wee bite		52 Bagel topper		
38 Sushi fish	loser	19 Moors		53 Parcel of land		
40 Tiki bar necklace	57 Cardinal cap	21 Swiss psycholo- gists Jean				



Last Friday's Answer

09/23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Mackie, 41; Jason Alexander, 60; Bruce Springsteen, 70; Mary Kay Place, 72.

Happy Birthday: Set the pace this year. Line up all the things you want to accomplish and the changes you want to make before you proceed. Preparation will be an important part of the process you follow to reach your goal. A balance of home, work and personal pampering will be necessary if you want to maintain happiness, good health and emotional well-being. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 29, 34, 40, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn all you can, and make decisions based on what will bring you the most joy. A partnership may be tested, but it will also prove how important you are to each other. Trust, understanding and patience will be necessary. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your changing mind will have you spinning in circles with too many choices and suggestions and not enough information. Slow down and consider what you want before you make a move that you regret. Make the decision that suits your needs. ☀️☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Go over your options carefully. Whether you are at work or at play, choosing the people you associate with will determine how much you accomplish. Listen, be observant and recognize when someone is trying to take advantage of you. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A sensitive issue will consume you if you let it. Silence is golden; take a moment to do

something by yourself. A timeout will give you the patience to deal with emotional matters with grace and dignity. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at what you can do and how you can excel. Don't waste time on something or someone that is immovable. Positive change is the route that will lead to happier days ahead, but first discard what isn't working for you anymore. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change only what's necessary. Hone skills, pay attention to detail and finish what you start. Being reliable and taking care of your responsibilities will help you gain respect. An energetic approach to love, life and happiness will encourage new beginnings. ☀️☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Slow down, figure out what you really want, put a plan in place and be prepared to do the work yourself. Refuse to let emotional matters ruin your day or stand in your way. Concentrate on being and doing your best. ☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to what's being said before you reveal your feelings. Dealing with friends and relatives will be difficult if someone is opinionated or set in his or her ways. Resort to creative endeavors that bring you joy. ☀️☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make excuses. Take care of your responsibilities before someone points out your shortcomings. The best way to get ahead is to do what's expected of you in a timely fashion. Someone will actively try to outmaneuver you. ☀️☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of your mental, physical and emotional well-being. Don't give in to anyone using manipulative tactics to take advantage of you. Make personal financial moves that protect you and your assets. A lifestyle change should be looked at carefully. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look over your debts, assets and the things you may want to sell or discard. Clearing the clutter and making room for a simpler lifestyle will be right for you. Personal and physical improvements will lift your spirits. Romance is featured. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your life doable. A simple approach to how you do things will save you money. Don't follow someone who tends to be lavish, inconsistent or abusive. Express what's important to you, and take the path that leads to your happiness. ☀️☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are unique, flexible and sensitive. You are determined and proactive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3			2					
5	4	6		1				
1	3	7		5				
	7		6		5			
6	3	1	7	9				
1	9		8					
9	4	5		7				
1	8		6	7				
2			3					

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	6	8	5	9	4	3	1	7
3	9	7	1	2	6	8	5	4
4	1	5	3	7	8	9	2	6
1	4	6	7	3	5	2	8	9
8	5	9	4	1	2	7	6	3
7	3	2	8	6	9	1	4	5
9	2	4	6	8	3	5	7	1
6	7	3	2	5	1	4	9	8
5	8	1	9	4	7	6	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI (1923-2019)

Solution: 11 letters

N	P	E	T	N	C	A	T	I	V	A	R	T	J
U	R	C	O	L	O	S	E	O	N	D	L	E	U
S	E	R	N	O	R	E	N	A	J	L	A	S	R
P	M	Y	Y	L	S	R	T	R	U	B	E	Y	I
A	I	S	G	R	I	E	O	C	S	C	L	E	E
R	O	T	L	A	A	T	I	H	E	U	G	O	N
R	S	A	O	C	A	A	E	S	D	I	S	I	O
O	O	L	B	N	N	M	M	N	O	A	N	T	N
W	N	L	E	O	E	A	R	N	E	R	N	R	O
T	I	S	E	D	Z	P	F	S	E	A	A	I	R
E	R	A	A	P	R	T	L	L	T	P	E	T	
L	O	R	R	I	A	F	O	R	Z	A	A	T	R
M	T	E	P	N	①	L	S	M	L	C	S	O	S
A	T	P	C</td										

CLASSIFIED ADS


VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) Silk Screen Printer – Highschool Diploma and atleast 3 months work experience in operating manual and automatic rotary silk screen printing press equipment.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing LLC.
Ground Floor, Aetna Building, Beach
Road, San Antonio Village,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-1680


**PPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(02) HVAC Specialist \$0.8 to 8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT

Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments. Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution. Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment. Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring. Discard the heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's Graduate.
- At least 12 months experience.
- Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@ppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Koshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

PPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**PPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(40) Masons \$7.57 to 8.25 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Smooth, tuck, side-walk, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids, and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed. Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float. Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, pointers, and straightedge.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school Graduate.
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@ppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Koshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

PPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**PPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(03) Painter Helper \$0.83 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or stucco masons by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas and equipment. Perform support duties to assist painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or masons. Apply protective coverings, such as masking tape, to articles or areas that could be damaged or stained by work processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school Graduate.
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in painting works.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@ppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Koshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

PPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

BPR General Contractor / Consulting Firm, LLC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
4 General Maintenance & Repair Workers

\$ 8.33/hr.

Interested applicants may submit resume to P.O. Box 504549 Saipan, MP 96950 or email brian@pticom.com. For more information, please call our office at 234-9127.

Open to all U.S. Citizens

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WINSOCK POWER, LLC
1 Maintenance & Repair Workers, General
\$ 8.33 per hr.

Interested applicants, pls call 234-6001 jamesrthomas67@hotmail.com

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REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #1 Size: 5,000sq/ft with built-in office & bathroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 234-0609 EXT. 158, 285-1317

WHATZIT Solution: Coat hanger

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner \$15
- 5-Liner \$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

COAT

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SIX (6) Automotive Body & Related Repairs \$12.54 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Repair and refurbish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Fit and weld replacement parts into place using wrenches and welding equipment and grind down welds to smooth them using power grinders and other tools. Prime and paint repaired surfaces using paint spray guns and motorized sanders. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required. At least 1 year experience as Automotive Body & Related Repairer is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us @ (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Construction Laborer \$8.09 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Perform tasks involving physical labor at construction sites. May operate hand and power tools of all types, air hammers, earth tamers, cement mixers, small mechanical hoists, surveying and measuring equipment and a variety of other equipment and instruments. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations, erect scaffolding and clean up rubble, debris and other waste materials. May assist other craft workers and perform related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required.
At least 12 months experience as Construction laborer is required

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver \$8.11 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Drive a tractor-trailer combination or heavy truck. Required to unload truck. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Secure cargo for transport using ropes, blocks, chain, binders or covers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 1 year experience as Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver is required

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Operating Engineer & Other Construction Equipment Operator \$9.05 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Operate various heavy equipment to move material, grade, excavate, backfill, land clearing or vibrating or breaking rock or concrete. Set up or inspect equipment prior to operation. Perform routine maintenance on equipment such as ensuring proper tire pressure, fill with water, coolant or oil to required levels, lubricate or make adjustments to machinery. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required.
At least 12 months experience required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us @ (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –marianaslabor.net

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JOB REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

1. College degree in Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Accounting or related fields.
2. Minimum of 5 years work experience in banking and the financial industry or related experience.
3. Strong lending and credit background and experience.
4. Good knowledge and familiarity on PIDB member nations and States.
5. Able to undertake high level dialogue with regional leaders on strategic and policy issues.
6. Strong management, analytical, presentation, and negotiation skills.
7. Proven interpersonal skills to lead and manage a team of highly professional staff.
8. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
9. Able to travel to bank's member countries and markets.
10. Eligible to work in Guam.

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Attractive and competitive salary and benefit package, negotiable based on experience and qualifications.

DUTY STATION: Guam, U.S.A.

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You may email the above to Manager of Administration at rosa@pacificdb.com

CLOSING DATE: September 27, 2019

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Angels delay Astros' AL West reign



HOUSTON (AP)—Houston remained just shy of its third straight AL West title, wasting a chance to clinch, as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Astros, 8-4, Saturday night.

Houston (101-54) needs just one more win to ensure first place. The Astros also would clinch with a loss by second-place Oakland, but the A's took a quick 9-0 lead over Texas in a late game.

Miley (14-6) allowed four runs and four hits while getting just three outs and leaving with two on in the second.

Albert Pujols hit an RBI double, Andrelton Simmons added an RBI single and Kole Calhoun hit his 33rd homer for the Angels.

Luke Bard (3-2) struck out three in two scoreless innings to win in relief of Patrick Sandoval, who lasted three innings.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 8

In Chicago, Yadier Molina and Paul DeJong homered on Craig Kimbrel's first two pitches in the ninth inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals handed the reeling Chicago Cubs their fifth straight loss with a wild 9-8 victory on Saturday.

Marcell Ozuna also connected as the NL Central-leading Cardinals (88-67) won for the fifth time in six games. Dexter Fowler had two hits and two RBIs, and Paul Goldschmidt also drove in two runs.

Reds 3, Mets 2

In Cincinnati, pinch-hitter Christian Colón's two-out single off Seth Lugo broke an eighth-inning tie, lifting the Reds over the Mets and dealing New York a critical defeat in the NL wild card race.

New York (80-74) went 0 for 6 with runners in scoring position and dropped four games back of Milwaukee for the second wild card with eight games left. The Brewers played last-place Pittsburgh later Saturday.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 2

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton launched his first homer since missing nearly three months to injury, James Paxton won his 10th straight start and the Yankees beat Toronto.

New York manager Aaron Boone was ejected after another tangle with a rookie umpire, and the 101-win Yankees got promising news shortly before first pitch when an MRI of Gleyber Torres' achy right hamstring came back negative.

The AL East champions entered with a major league-leading 294 homers.



White Sox 5, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Tim Anderson homered in a three-run fifth inning, and Chicago beat Detroit.

Anderson went 1 for 4, lowering his American League-leading average to .335, but the one hit was a no-doubter of a home run to left field.

Iván Nova (11-12) allowed two runs and eight hits in five innings for Chicago and three relievers finished. Alex Colomé picked up his 29th save in 31 chances.

Detroit (45-109) matched the 1996 Tigers for the second-most losses in franchise history behind 119 in 2003.

Braves 8, Giants 1

In Atlanta, Max Fried strengthened his case for a spot in the postseason rotation by throwing 5 1/3 scoreless innings, Francisco Cervilli and Adam Duvall hit two-run homers and the Braves beat San Francisco.

At 96-60, the Braves will finish with their most wins since 2013. San Francisco dropped to 71-81, ensuring Bruce Bochy will not have a winning record in his 25th and final season as a major league manager.

Rays 5, Red Sox 4, 11 innings

In St. Petersburg, Nate Lowe hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning, and Tampa Bay beat Boston to move one game

ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild card.

Tampa Bay won its third straight game, all in 11 innings.

A day after the defending World Series champion Red Sox were mathematically eliminated, Mitch Moreland put Boston ahead 4-3 with a two-out homer in the 11th off Diego Castillo (5-8).

Brewers 10, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, rookies Keston Hiura and Trent Grisham each hit two-run homers and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh to increase its edge for the second NL wild-card spot.

The Brewers lead Chi-

cago by three games in the wild-card race after the Cubs lost to St. Louis. Milwaukee remained one game behind Washington for the top wild-card slot.

Milwaukee has won seven of eight and extended its Sep-

tember record to 16-4, tops in the major leagues.

Nationals 10, Marlins 4

In Miami, Brian Dozier hit a go-ahead RBI single during Washington's six-run 10th inning in a win over the Nationals.

Dozier's single to left off Miami reliever Jose Urena (4-10) scored Ryan Zimmerman from third. Zimmerman had led off the inning with a single

and advanced to third on a single by Victor Robles.

The Nationals are atop the NL wild-card race.

Phillies 9, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Bryce Harper connected for a three-run homer and Philadelphia avoided sliding deeper in the NL wild-card standings with a win over the Indians.

Brad Miller homered twice as the Phillies stayed within five games of Milwaukee for the second wild-card spot.

But it was Harper's 33rd homer in the fifth inning off left-hander Oliver Pérez (2-4) that put the Phillies ahead.

Royals 12, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Closer Taylor Rogers got tagged during a seven-run ninth inning and Minnesota missed a chance to add to its AL Central lead in a loss to Kansas City.

The Twins remained four games ahead of Cleveland, which lost at home to Philadelphia.

Pinch-hitter Cheslor Cuthbert lined a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Rogers (2-4) to begin the Royals' big burst. Rogers gave up three runs on three hits while getting just one out.

Mariners 7, Orioles 6, 13 innings

In Baltimore, Mallex Smith

AP

Los Angeles Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons, top, leaps to avoid Houston Astros' Alex Bregman during a double play attempt during the third inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, in Houston. Yordan Alvarez was out at first.

scored from second base in the 13th inning after Tim Lopes beat out an infield grounder, and Seattle outlasted the Orioles.

Smith reached with two outs when Tanner Scott (1-1) dropped a short toss while covering first base for an error. Smith stole second, and Lopes followed with a grounder to third baseman Rio Ruiz.

Ruiz took a bit too long to fire to first base, and Lopes beat the throw. Smith, meanwhile, whisked around third and slid home safely ahead of the relay with an unearned run.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, Rod Barajas lost his San Diego debut as interim manager, falling to Arizona as former Padres player Abraham Almonte had three hits and scored three runs.

Barajas was promoted from bench coach earlier in the day

to replace Andy Green, who was fired because of the Padres' second-half slide. The Padres were 45-45 at the All-Star break but have skidded to 69-86.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Ryan McMahon and Josh Fuentes hit solo homers, and Colorado defeated the Dodgers to snap a 12-game skid at Dodger Stadium.

It was the Rockies' first win in eight games in Los Angeles this season, and their first here since June 30, 2018.

The NL West champion Dodgers were left sitting on 99 wins while trying to join Houston and the New York Yankees as the major leagues' third 100-game winner for the third straight season.

Athletics 12, Rangers 3

In Oakland, Marcus Semien hit his 32nd home run and reached base six times, and Oakland routed Texas to maintain its two-game lead in the AL wild card race.

Sean Manaea allowed two runs over 5 2/3 innings after being staked to a big lead early to win his third straight. Matt Chapman drove in two runs and had two hits, both coming as part of a seven-run first inning.

Open season: Managers on hot seat

PHOENIX—Miami Marlins manager Don Mattingly leans forward in his desk chair, patiently answering question after question, and as the reporters shuffle out of his office, he takes a peek at the clock on the wall, and slams his eyes shut.

Another long night.

Another painful defeat.

The Marlins were no-hit for 5 2/3 innings, had their starting pitcher hit three batters alone in the first inning, had two relievers fail to record an out, and blew a two-run lead in a matter of minutes, resulting in their 98th loss of the season.

The Marlins (52-98) could win the rest of their games, and still finish with the worst record in the National League.

This could be the first time in Mattingly's career that he has been associated with a team that lost 100 games in a season.

They need to win three of their final 12 games to avoid the worst record in franchise history, 54-108 in 1998, but considering their .347 winning percentage, it's hardly a given.

Meanwhile, the biggest surprise in Chicago this winter will be if David Ross is not named their next manager by Thanksgiving.

The Cubs have been pre-

paring Ross, who helped lead them to the 2016 World Series championship and four consecutive division titles, to the heir apparent, and although bench coach Mark Loretta can't be completely ruled out, they believe Ross will be the perfect fit.

The Mets, to steal Theo Epstein's phrase discussing his own team, haven't played inspired baseball this year.

They never quit under Mickey Callaway, but it wasn't as if this was General George Patton inspiring the troops either.

Now, they have all off season and can take their sweet time interviewing Joe Girardi, Maddon.

Ned Yost, 65, will go down as the greatest Royals' manager since Dick Howser, leading the team to the 2015 World Series title and back-to-back pennants.

Yet, with the Royals in a full-scale rebuild, and a new owner on the way, maybe it's time to start fresh.

The Royals' next manager could be Mike Matheny, who led the St. Louis Cardinals to the 2013 World Series, and is already in the Royals' front office.

The only real question is whether it happens this winter or next.

Brown cut by Pats amid sexual misconduct claims



**F O X B O R -
O U G H, Mass.**

(AP)—Antonio Brown was released by the New England Patriots on Friday after a second woman accused him of sexual misconduct—the third team in seven months to tire of the off-field behavior that has overshadowed his accomplishments as one of the NFL's most prolific receivers for a decade.

The defending Super Bowl champions announced the move in a statement emailed to reporters, three minutes after Brown posted on Twitter: “Thank you for the opportunity @Patriots #GoWinIt.”

Already facing a civil suit claiming that he raped a former trainer, Brown was accused in a Sports Illustrated story published on Monday of exposing himself to an artist he hired to paint a mural at his home. He has denied both allegations.

But the Patriots cut ties with the four-time All-Pro after just one game.

The statement attributed to “a Patriots spokesperson” said, in its entirety: “The New England Patriots are releasing Antonio Brown. We appreciate the hard work of many people over the past 11 days, but we feel that it is best to move in a different direction at this time.”

Patriots coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady both avoided questions about Brown during their scheduled media availability Friday, a few hours before Brown was released. Belichick said during the morning that the team was looking into “some things,” then cut off his news conference when reporters continued to ask about Brown.

Asked if he expected Brown to play in Sunday’s game against the New York Jets, Belichick said, “He’s on the roster.”

About five hours later, he wasn’t.

“It’s unfortunate things didn’t work out with the Patriots,” Brown’s agent, Drew Rosenhaus tweeted. “But Antonio is healthy and is looking forward to his next opportunity in the NFL. He wants to play the game he loves and he hopes to play for another team soon.”

The NFL said it will continue to investigate Brown’s behavior, as it has with stars like Ray Rice and Kareem Hunt and lesser players who have run afoul of the personal conduct policy—whether or not they were convicted of a crime, or even charged.

The league said in a statement late Friday that Brown could be placed on the commissioner’s exempt list if he



is signed by another team and could also be suspended once the investigation concludes, casting doubt on whether he will play again this season.

“We have as yet made no findings regarding these is-

sues,” the statement said. “Upon the conclusion of the investigation, he may also be subject to discipline if the investigation finds that he has violated the law or league policies.”

Brown has been sued by former trainer Britney Taylor, who claimed Brown raped or sexually assaulted her on three occasions. Although the lawsuit became public last week, Brown practiced with the Pa-

triots, then played on Sunday in a 43-0 rout of Miami, scoring a touchdown.

Taylor had a lengthy meeting with the NFL this week.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they

doing fine in pass protection.

“We’re not doing a good enough job up front,” Marrone said. I have no issues with how Leonard is working and trying. I think he might be trying too much because of the frustration. He has the ability of being a great player, but we have to do a much better job all around. We’ve got to get this thing going.”

Jacksonville’s defense held division foes Houston and Tennessee to a combined 20 points while recording 13 sacks. Calais Campbell had three of the unit’s nine sacks against the Texans, with Josh Allen, Dawuane Smoot and Taven Bryan also chipping in.

“When you look at successful defensive lines, it’s about waves and how you can bring them in waves and keep them fresh and keep them going,” Marrone said.

Dede Westbrook had three drops Thursday, including one in the end zone with no defenders on him. Westbrook was widely expected to be the team’s No. 1 target, but DJ Chark and Chris Conley have been more consistent options.

AP
New England Patriots wide receiver Antonio Brown (17) scores a touchdown as Miami Dolphins cornerback Jomal Wiltz (33) attempts to defend during the first half at an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, but Taylor was identified in the federal lawsuit and was quoted in a statement provided by her lawyer.

According to a Sports Illustrated story, a second woman, who as a victim of sexual harassment is not being identified, was working at Brown’s home when she turned around to find him standing there naked except for a small towel covering his genitals.

After the article ran, the magazine reported, the woman “received what she characterized as intimidating texts” from Brown that included pictures of her children.

“She received a group text message that appeared to come from the same phone number Brown provided to her in 2017,” the magazine said. “The person she believes is Brown encouraging others in the group to investigate the woman. The texter accused the artist of fabricating her account of the 2017 incident for cash.”

Lawyers for the woman said in a statement that the league and the Patriots “took our client’s concerns seriously.”

“She wanted the threats and intimidation to stop and we hope that will be case,” said a statement emailed to reporters from attorneys Lisa Banks and Debra Katz. “The NFL has assured us that regardless of Antonio Brown’s roster status, it will continue to investigate all claims regarding his behavior.”

Also this week, Nike cut ties with the receiver, saying in an email to The Associated Press on Friday, “Antonio Brown is not a Nike athlete.”

A four-time All-Pro who caught 837 passes over nine seasons with the Steelers, Brown wore out his welcome in Pittsburgh after he went missing for two days before the 2018 season finale. The Steelers traded him to Oakland, which signed him to a contract that would have paid him up to \$50 million over the next three seasons.

But he never played a game for the Raiders, quarreling with the coach and general manager until they, too, released him. The Patriots signed him only a few hours later, giving him a one-year deal that would have guaranteed him \$9 million and paid him up to \$15 million this season.

Jaguars prefer to keep, not trade, Jalen Ramsey

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars aren’t giving up on disgruntled defender Jalen Ramsey.

The Jags would prefer to keep their star cornerback after several days of trade talks with other NFL teams, according to a person close to the situation.

Jacksonville told Ramsey during the offseason that it had no plans to pay him with two years remaining on his rookie deal. Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff, Philadelphia quarterback Carson Wentz and Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott—three of the four players selected ahead of Ramsey in the 2016 NFL draft—already have signed extensions.

Ramsey hugged several fellow defensive backs after the win, appearing to say goodbye in what many believed would be his final game with Jacksonville (1-2). Behind the scenes, though, teammates, coaches and members of the front office were working to try to repair Ramsey’s fractured relationship with the franchise, specifically with top executive Tom Coughlin.

Jaguars owner Shad Khan had several meetings at the facility earlier in the week in

hopes of solving issues. That might include giving Ramsey the long-term contract extension he wants, the person said.

Jacksonville told Ramsey during the offseason that it had no plans to pay him with two years remaining on his rookie deal.

Ramsey causes as many headaches for his own team as he does opponents, there’s no question the Jags would have a difficult time replacing him—even if they receive two first-round picks in a trade.

“Nothing rattles this kid,” Marrone said. “He’s really good at communication and I think he’s really good at preparing himself and making sure there are no surprises out there for him. That’s just a guy that has a maniacal work ethic.”

Jacksonville’s ground game has been mostly dismal.

Leonard Fournette carried 11 times for minus-8 yards before breaking a 69-yarder late Thursday. Marrone said the offensive line is getting little push to open holes, but

Federer wins with a little help from Nadal, Borg

GENEVA (AP) — Coaching each other courtside, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal won their singles matches Saturday to help Team Europe retain its lead over Team World on Day 2 of the Laver Cup.

Federer got his great rival's input at his shoulder before rallying late and raising his game in the decisive super-tie-breaker to beat Nick Kyrgios 6-7 (5), 7-5, 10-7 in the afternoon session.

"What I really enjoy with Rafa is just that we very often align, our ideas align," said Federer, praising Nadal for "clarity in his advice."

With the European team's captain Bjorn Borg also in the huddle, it brought a total of 50 Grand Slam singles titles together to help Federer edge past Kyrgios. The Australian had world team captain John McEnroe's seven Grand Slam titles in his chair.

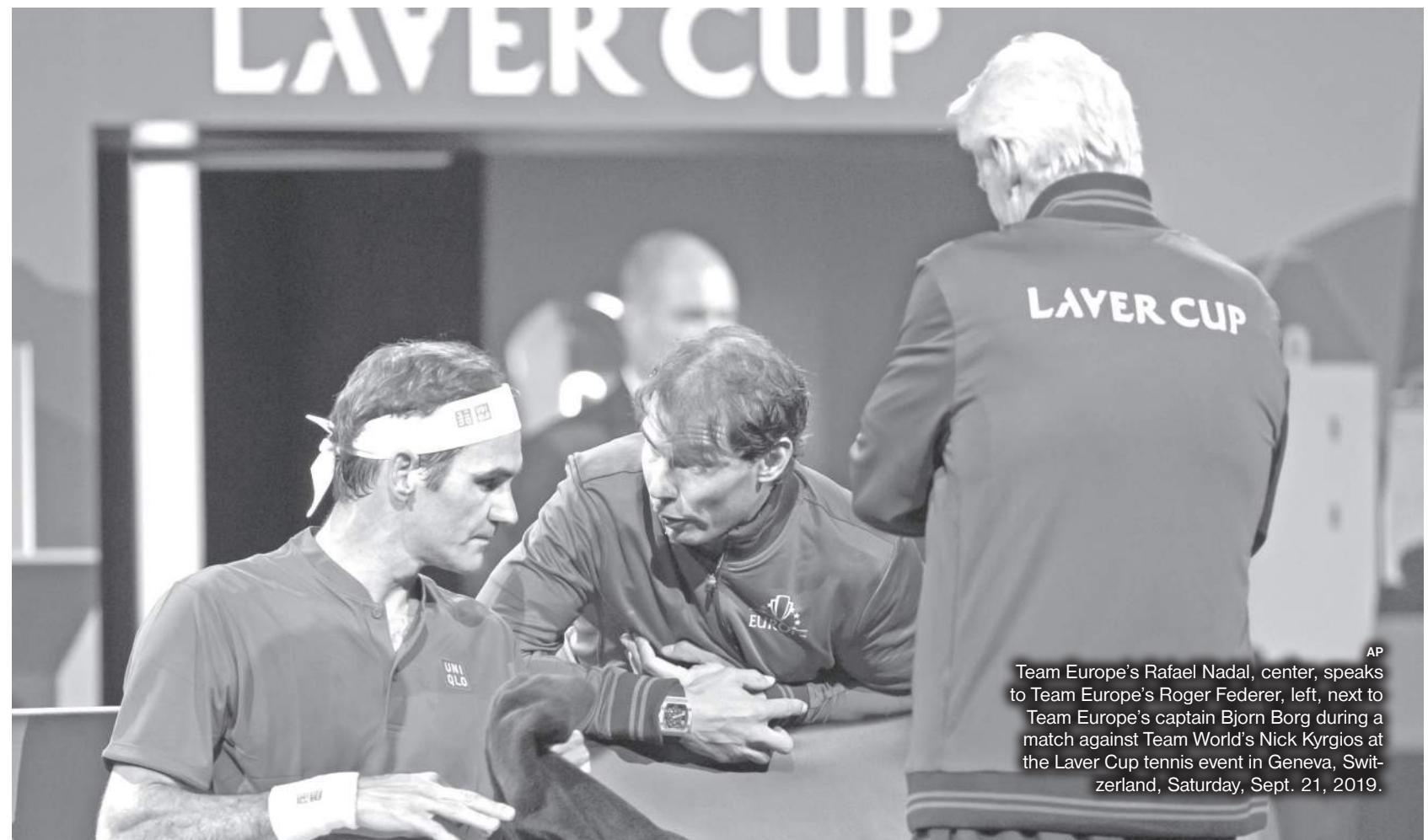
Nadal got the favor back from Federer during a 6-3, 7-6 (1) win over Milos Raonic that opened the evening session. He was quickly back on court partnering Stefanos Tsitsipas in the day's doubles rubber.

Kyrgios and Jack Sock won that match 6-4, 3-6, 10-6, scoring two key points for the world team which trails Europe 7-5 ahead of the final four matches Sunday.

John Isner began Saturday's play with a win for Team World, 6-7 (2), 6-4, 10-1 over Alexander Zverev.

The third edition of the annual Laver Cup is decided Sunday by a doubles match, then three more singles—each worth three points with 13 needed for overall victory.

Federer, who co-owns the Laver Cup competition, delighted a 17,000 crowd in his first singles match in his native Switzerland this season. He



Team Europe's Rafael Nadal, center, speaks to Team Europe's Roger Federer, left, next to Team Europe's captain Bjorn Borg during a match against Team World's Nick Kyrgios at the Laver Cup tennis event in Geneva, Switzerland, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019. AP

partnered Zverev to a doubles win on Friday.

"Today was extremely loud. I don't recall that on the tour ever being almost this loud," the 38-year-old Federer said of the Palexpo indoor arena in Geneva. "You know, if I would have retired a long time ago, I wouldn't have this moment right now."

Federer broke the Kyrgios service at 5-5 in the second set and then produced some of his best tennis in the decisive tiebreaker.

"I think the guy I was playing was just pretty good. Don't you think so?" said Kyrgios, when asked at a post-match news conference if his own play lacked something in key moments.

Laver Cup in team tennis pushed

Meanwhile, team events are having quite the resurgence on the men's tennis circuit, with three different competitions scheduled in the next four months. What's still unclear, though, is whether they can all co-exist in the long term.

"Something's got to shake out," John McEnroe acknowledged Thursday, ahead of captaining a six-man world team in the annual Laver Cup event.

The three-day Laver Cup started in 2017 while the International Tennis Federation sought a new format for the historic but ailing Davis Cup. It pits a team of European stars against a selection of players

from the rest of the world.

The revamped Davis Cup arrives in November with 18 nations—though not Federer's Switzerland—playing over seven days in a single city, Madrid, to end the 2019 season.

Another team event launches the 2020 season—the inaugural 24-nation ATP Cup

played Jan. 3-12 in Australia. Then there's the Tokyo Olympics as well, another addition to an already packed schedule.

Federer has committed to playing at the ATP Cup but hasn't made up his mind yet on the Olympics. He is confident, though, that there is room in the calendar for all three team events.

"Absolutely," Federer said.

"There were places in the past for four different Davis Cup matches," Federer said, recalling the February-April-September-November fixtures he and Stan Wawrinka played to lift the 2014 trophy. "Now it's less than that" for the three separate team tournaments.

Since Switzerland won its first and only Davis Cup title,

Federer has only played a single fixture to gain eligibility for the 2016 Olympics.

Few expect the 38-year-old Federer to fit a Davis Cup comeback into his selective schedule. He would likely get a wild-card exemption for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, if he decides to play there.

McEnroe noted there was no Olympic tennis for most

of his career, during which he committed to the Davis Cup more than most peers.

"Davis Cup was an important part of my life and career, a chance to represent your country," he said, adding that the competition founded in 1900 was only recently "on life support."

Then came a flurry of team formats.

"(This) radical change finally took place after way too long," McEnroe said. "Now they have this, what's it called, ATP Cup. So we have three of them when it almost seemed like there was none."

Players need an invitation to be part of the Laver Cup, where they get to be around 1960s great Rod Laver and play with or against Federer.

than usual.

Teams now must submit starting lineups 30 minutes before the scheduled start time, instead of the previous rule of 10 minutes.

Lineups can still change after the 30-minute mark, which gives teams flexibility if an injury occurs or is aggravated during warm-ups.

Silver said there have been discussions about changing the dates of free agency, though noted that any change would have to be collectively bargained with the players. The Houston Rockets suggested last season that it would be a good idea to move free agency ahead of the NBA draft. "My sense is those conversations will continue," Silver said of the notion of changing the free-agency calendar.

"I don't have any expectation that anything is going to happen in the near term."



The NBA's board of governors was unanimous Friday in its approval of a plan to stiffen potential penalties for tampering with players and employees under contract with other clubs, hoping for increased compliance in existing league rules.

Fines of up to \$10 million are now possible in the most egregious situations, along with forfeiture of draft picks, suspensions of executives and voiding of contracts when rule breaking is found—significant enough threats, the league hopes, to end any notion of teams entering into deals with free agents before rules allow.

"We need to ensure that we're creating a culture of compliance in this league," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said after two days of

NBA board approves stiffer penalties for tampering

meetings concluded in New York. "Our teams want to know that they're competing on a level playing field and frankly don't want to feel disadvantaged if they are adhering to our existing rules."

The rules aren't new, but Silver has been saying for months that it's pointless for the league to have policies that cannot be enforced. And while the new parameters aren't foolproof, an important change is that every franchise will have to annually certify that its executives did not talk to free agents or their representatives before league rules allow.

But for years, the notion of waiting for the start of free agency to talk to available players has been largely ignored. This year, free agency was to officially begin at 6

p.m. Eastern on June 30, and many deals were known to be done within minutes.

"There need to be consequences when rules are violated," Silver said.

The league told teams last week that fines would be raised in part to reflect the 600% increase in league revenue and the 1,100% increase in franchise value since the maximum-fine ceilings were last touched in 1996.

There are some elements of the new measures that still need to be worked out—specifically, the specifics behind the league's new mandate that five teams will be randomly selected for investigatory audits to see if there were any rule-compliance issues. The NBA wants teams to keep

records of talks with players and agents for a year, and the league has the power to review a team's electronic communications devices.

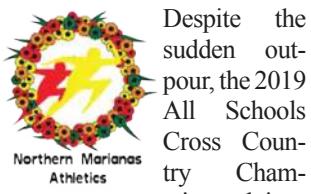
The privacy concerns, however, remain a sticking point, Silver said.

"None of us want people looking into their personal communications," Silver said. "But I think people who operate in a public company environment or operate in a financial world who are used to compliance procedures understand that you have to find a balance between disclosure and privacy so you can ensure that people will understand that there will be consequences for inappropriate behavior."

Meanwhile, the issue of James Harden's stepback jump-

All Schools Cross Country draws crowd

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Despite the sudden outpour, the 2019 All Schools Cross Country Championships Series officially started last Saturday with hundreds of students running at the Saipan Country Club.

Over 200 students from private and public schools were seen enjoying the race despite the early morning showers. Perennial cross country participants Agape Christian School and Saipan International School brought a lot of students from the elementary, middle school, and high school departments. Mt. Carmel School and Marianas High School students also joined the kick-off that was postponed last Sept. 14 due to the heavy rain and thunder.

The elementary division participants seemed enthused about running in the pouring rain last weekend, while high school students also got drenched in the rain as they



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Elementary school students race to the finish line during last Saturday's 2019 All Schools Cross Country Championships Series at the Saipan Country Club.

waited for their turn to start the race. The elementary school students were tasked to run one lap around the course, middle school students did two laps, and the

high school students completed three laps.

Results of the races have yet to be released as of press time last night.

Meanwhile, the next run

is schedule for Sept. 28 and it will be held at the Banzai Lookout and hosted by the SIS Geckos.

The race will start at 6:30am, so students are en-

tered The Game to go back on track.

Jetzen Jandoc top-scored for Mystique with his 30 points, which dropped back-to-back games before winning over The Game for an even 2-2 mark. Jandoc buckled down to work early, making 13 points to hand Mystique a 25-25 lead. He added 10 more in the second quarter to keep his team on top at the break, 44-37.

When the game resumed, Jandoc failed to score in the third quarter, but Mii Tekopua and Jerald Rivera were there for Mystique. Tekopua made 9

of his 13 points in the penultimate period, while Rivera added 6, bringing Mystique's lead back to double figures, 72-51.

It was cruise control for Mystique from thereon, as the team handed The Game its second straight loss after a 2-0 start.

First Game

Saipan Vegas 112—Santos 17, Bondoc 16, Schmidt 12, P. Basa 12, Atan 10, Sablan 10, Deleon Guerrero 9, Diaz 8, Kabiriel 8, E. Basa 5, Rabauliman 5.

AK Toyota 79—Natividad

20, Fitial 17, Pantola 14, Catala 10, Guillas 6, Castillo 4, Manalo 4, Francia 2, Borja 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 56-35, 78-59, 112-79

Second Game

Mystique 91—Jandoc 30, Dancel 14, Tekopua 13, Rivera 10, Gaviola 6, Torres 5, Bernardo 4, Broncano 4, Casbin 3, Galulu 2.

The Game 63—Mintac 31, Fidelino 13, Santos 5, Parulan 4, Abejo 3, Castro 3, Bernardo 2, Javier 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-15, 44-37, 72-51, 91-63.

SAIPAN

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double figures after drilling 17 points, while Brian Natividad had a game-high 20 markers for Toyota.

With De Guzman and Lauren out, Saipan Vegas lorded it over in the rebound department, 56-18. The league-leading team also led in the assists department, 37-21.

Mystique 91, The Game 63

In the other match last weekend, Mystique BBQ ham-

CNMI

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Indonesia and China played in the last Group G game yesterday to determine the team that will advance to the finals next year. Coming into last night's match (10pm Saipan time), Indonesia and China had similar 3-0-0 win-loss records, but the latter is ahead in goal difference, 28-26, after the former gave up a goal to the CNMI.

"Coach Mita (Michiteru) and the other officials are extremely proud of the team. They have come a long way from a very small island, but they showed everyone how big their fighting spirit and heart are. They fought with all they had till the last whistle and took their experience from each game, using it to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI players hustle for the ball during their game against China in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers last Friday in Indonesia.

perform better. The coaches only hope for the boys to have this fight in them even

once we're home. That way, we can continue to close the gap between our football and

the world's football—a gap that gets smaller and smaller every year," Vargas said.

couraged to be on site at the Last Command Post before the kickoff.

The Public School System and Northern Marianas Athletics are teaming up in holding the series of cross

country races. Four qualifying runs are scheduled before the finale and students must compete in at least three to gain entry to the championship tentatively set for Oct. 18.

Saipan Adventure triumphs, Tsingtao Boyz back on track

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



Saipan Adventures and Tsingtao Boyz came out on top of their respective matches in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Thursday at the Civic Center Court.

Saipan Adventure bested Light and Salt in the first match, 67-60, while Tsingtao Boys downed IT&E Light, 68-61.

Behind at the break, 30-37, Saipan Adventure stole the lead from Light and Salt after scoring 18 points in the third period and holding the latter to 7 markers. Jun Alipio led the comeback after making 7 points in the penultimate quarter to give Saipan Adventure a 48-41 advantage. Roy Verdeflor added 5 markers in the turnaround.

Alipio and Verdeflor were still at it in the fourth period, combining for 13 points to keep Saipan Adventure in front and give their team a 6-3 record.

Verdeflor finished with 20 points, while Alipio added 17.

In the other game, Tsingtao regained its form after losing

First Game

Saipan Adventure 67—Verdeflor 20, Alipio 17, Morales 10, Cruz 8, Maesa 4, Salazar 3, Mungcal 2.

Light and Salt 60—Natividad 28, M. Usi 15, Bautista 8, R. Usi 5, Pineda 3, Claveria 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 30-37, 48-41, 67-60.

Second Game

Tsingtao Boyz 68—Demonteverde 15, Ariar 13, Jandoc 12, Pangelinan 9, Rivera 8, Pineda 4, Giron 2, Alano 2, Tenebere 2.

IT&E Light 61—De Guzman 22, Pamintuan 12, Santos 8, Gotengco 6, Palacios 5, Nuguid 4, Divinagracia 2, Aglipay 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-19, 42-34, 51-45, 68-61.

MOBIL

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markers, while Santos and Nekaifes added 13 and 11, respectively.

Nak Nakashima paced TanHoldings 2 with his 18 points, while Matt Buenabajo chipped in 17.

In the second half, Mobil won a seesaw battle, thanks to the crucial baskets of Alvin Almario.

Almario scored Mobil's last 6 points to finish with a game-high 26 markers. He had 9 in the fourth quarter, which started with Mobil behind by a hair, 53-54.

Earlier in the second period, Mobil was ahead, 39-35, as Almario made 8 points and Anthony Wenceslao and Edwin Torres teamed up for 8 markers.

Hawaiian Rock, which was on top by 3 after the first period, 21-18, regained the upper hand in the third behind the combined 15 points of Jampes

Reyes and Bobby Dela Cruz. However, Hawaiian Rock failed to keep the shaky lead when Almario hit clutch baskets in the end for Mobil.

In other results, McDonalds won by default against Docomo Pacific.

First Game

CUC 91—Manglona 36, Pestillo 23, Santos 13, Nekaifes 11, Dela Cruz 4, Mizutani 4.

TanHoldings 2 66—Nakashima 18, Buenabajo 17, Jinang 12, Tenebere 8, Manalili 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24:14, 48-28, 81-46, 91-66.

Second Game

Mobil 74—Almario 26, Torres 16, Estolas 14, Wenceslao 8, Aguilar 4, Galzote 3, Balabo 3.

Hawaiian Rock 71—Reyes 24, Dela Cruz 23, David 13, Camacho 5, Reyes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-21, 39-35, 53-54, 74-71



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delay Astros'
AL West reign

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI players keep head high

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team wrapped up its campaign in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Indonesia last Friday and headed home with its morale high.

The Teen Ayuyus' final assignment was against China, which coasted to a 15-0 win. The winning margin may be huge, but this does not reflect the kind of effort the CNMI players showed in the game and the entire tournament, particularly the squad's last three matches.

"You could see the toll

the three other matches had on the team. Despite their exhaustion and fatigue, they continued to stay as disciplined and compact as they could to try to stop China's quick penetration. They left everything they had for this last match.

Towards the end of the match, we also had a huge chance of scoring but we were unable to capitalize," said team manager Mikky Vargas.

"Years ago, we couldn't imagine creating scoring opportunities against our opponents, let alone actually score against them. But now, we see that the boys create chances every

game," she added.

Out of its four matches, the CNMI scored in two, with Kohtaro Goto finding his target in their game against Brunei and Jim Maniago doing the same versus Indonesia.

"Although it seems like nothing compared to the 15 goals Indonesia was able to score against us, that lone goal can keep them from qualifying to the next round and it absolutely devastated the host. Imagine, NMI, the smallest FA, keeping them from qualifying to the next round," Vargas said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team players pay their respects to the CNMI flag during the singing of the Commonwealth anthem before their game against China in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers last Friday in Indonesia.

Saipan Vegas on a roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas stretched its winning streak to four after cruising past AK Toyota, 112-79, in the first game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The victory kept Saipan Vegas on top of the standings in the 10-team league, while the loss dropped Toyota to fourth place with its 2-2 slate.

Saipan Vegas set up the lopsided win after pulling away in the last five minutes of the second quarter. Saipan Vegas was ahead by only 4, 32-28, when it had a 24-7 windup to close the first half with a commanding 56-35 advantage.

Saipan Vegas made one basket after another in that pivotal scoring surge, as its backcourt pressure defense forced AK Toyota to commit numerous turnovers, which the winning squad then turned into easy baskets. Douglas Schmidt and Coby Santos scored 8 and 6 points, respectively, off those turnovers, while six of their teammates also hit the board in the second-quarter breakaway.



Saipan Vegas' Coby Santos leaps to catch an alley-oop pass from Douglas Schmidt during the second quarter of their game against AK Toyota in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

AK Toyota never recovered in the second half, as it continued to turn the ball over and had limited options on offense after missing big men Jorge De Guzman and Alex Lauron. Santos led six Saipan Vegas in

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Contrasting wins for CUC, Mobil

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. eased past TanHoldings 2/CTSI 91-66, while Mobil COAG defeated Hawaiian Rock, 74-71, in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

CUC pulverized TanHoldings after



Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s John Santos goes for a reverse layup against two TanHoldings 2 defenders during their game in the JP World caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

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scoring at least 20 points in each of the four quarters.

Eugene Manglona led CUC's demolition of TanHoldings 2, as he delivered 24 points in the first half, which wrapped up with his team enjoying a 48-28 advantage.

Manglona ended up top-scoring for CUC with his 36 points and drew help from Rey Pestillo, John Santos, and John Nekafes, who also delivered twin digits. Pestillo had 23